Wednesday, November 19, 2025 No 319 ₹7

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

India has right to defend against terror: Jaishankar

Page 7

Business

Bank fraud: SC notice to Centre, CBI, ED, Anil Ambani P.12

World

UNSC backs Trump's Gaza plan, okays stabilisation force P.11

Nation

Siddique murder: Accused being deported

State

One more from K'taka dies in Saudi accident P.6

The all-new
Hyundai VENUE.
Tech up. Go beyond.

Price starts at
₹7 89 900~
Now in showrooms.

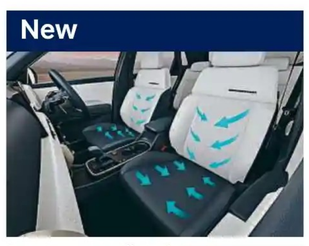
Scan for a thrilling experience.

Dual 62.5 cm (12.3" + 12.3") curved panoramic display with Connected Car Navigation Cockpit (ccNC)^ and Controller - OTA
Dual tone (Dark navy & dove grey) interior theme with terrazzo-textured crashpad finish

Dark chrome radiator grille
Quad beam LED headlamps

Spacious cabin – More head room, shoulder room and knee room

New



Front row ventilated seats

New

Surround view monitor (SVM)

New

Bose premium sound
8 speaker system

New

Hyundai SmartSense –
Level 2 ADAS (16 features)

6 AT in 1.5 l Diesel New

Engine options
Kappa 1.2 l MPi Petrol
Kappa 1.0 l Turbo GDi Petrol
U2 1.5 l CRDi Diesel

Transmission options
MT I AT I DCT

Super strong body structure
33 Standard safety features
More than 65 advanced safety features

HYUNDAI

To enquire give a missed call at **9555295868**

my Hyundai app

Hyundai Click to Buy

3 YEAR Unlimited* Kilometer Warranty

UPTO 7 YEARS Extended Warranty##

UPTO 5 YEARS Shield of Trust Running Repair Package**

UPTO 5 YEARS Shield of Trust Super Maintenance Package**

10 YEAR Road Side Assistance (RSA)**

Shield of Trust Bodycare Body Maintenance Package**

Bluelink 3 Years free Bluelink subscription

Accelerated by^ NVIDIA
^31.24 cm (12.3") ccNC navigation system is accelerated by NVIDIA

For Information Contact: Toll Free: 1800114645 **Bangalore: Blue Hyundai,** Mysore Road, Ph: 9591100001, Rajajinagar, Ph: 9591200001, Magadi Road, Ph: 9513200033, New Bel Road, Ph: 9513000800, Basavanagudi, Ph: 9591211118, Hesserghatta Main Road, Ph: 9916208888, **Lakshmi Hyundai,** Hebbal Ph: 9900037900, Kalyan Nagar, Ph: 8494913303, HBR Layout, Ph: 8884441111, Whitefield, Ph: 8884497700, Devanahalli, Ph: 8884499037, **Pavan Hyundai,** Kanakpura Road, Ph: 7337882522, Electronic City, Ph: 7337882522, **Dhruvdesh Hyundai,** Banashankari, Ph: 9205770577, **Trident Hyundai,** Sankey Road, Ph: 7353762526, K R Puram, Ph: 9844266873, Hosur Road, Ph: 9743786716, Indiranagar, Ph: 9743107927, Yelahanka, Ph: 7353750677, Yeshwanthpur, Ph: 9844701452, **Advaith Hyundai,** Residency Road, Ph: 9606076451 Marathahalli, Outer Ring Road, Ph: 9606076452 Vasanthnagar, Ph: 9606076453 Bannerghatta Road, Ph: 9606076454 Koramangala, Ph: 9606076455 Avalahalli, Ph: 9606076456, Sarjapura Ph: 9606076458, Bilekahalli, Ph: 9606076457 **Mangalore: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 9900144113, **Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 9606938832 **Udupi: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 9972440758 **Mysore: Advaith Hyundai,** Belavadi, Ph: 9620257012 JLB Road, Ph: 9606938831, **KPR Hyundai,** Mysore Ph: 9606470291 **Hassan: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 9538971132 **Shimoga: Rahul Hyundai,** Ph: 6364465441, **Hubli: Bellad Hyundai,** Ph: 9900553490, **Raam Hyundai,** Ph: 7337785999, **Kanakpura: Pavan Hyundai,** Ph: 7892718572, **Belgaum: Nagshanti Hyundai,** Ph: 9844890456, 9844890459 **Bijapur: Narayan Hyundai,** Ph: 9742272157, 9742272153 **Bagalkot: Narayan Hyundai,** Ph: 9742253245 **Jamkhandi: Narayan Hyundai,** Ph: 9742272179, **Davanagere: K J Hyundai,** Ph: 7022001201, **Chitradurga: K J Hyundai,** Ph: 7022898488, **Channagiri: K J Hyundai,** Ph: 9945059764, **Ranebennur: K J Hyundai,** Ph: 7022992350, **Gulbarga: Shah Hyundai,** Ph: 9108049250 **Tumkur: Pavan Hyundai,** Ph: 7337882522 **Bellari: Anika Hyundai,** Ph: 8884484020, **Ramanagara: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 9620594433 **Kolar: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 9620229885, **Chintamani:** Ph: 8147994737, **Mandya: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 9740060075, **Coorg: Advaith Hyundai,** Madikeri, Ph: 9538971151 Gonikoppal, Ph: 9945774088 Kushalnagar, Ph: 9538971149 **Tiptur: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 7619577050 **Chikodi: Nagshanti Hyundai,** Ph: 8951947001 **Gokak: Nagshanti Hyundai,** Ph: 8147978240 **Savadatti: Nagshanti Hyundai,** Ph: 8007228679 **Athani: Nagshanti Hyundai,** Ph: 9620341451, **Belthangady: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 7760962819, **Sullia: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 7760962813 **Dharwad: Bellad Hyundai,** Ph: 6364333461, **Hunsur: KPR Hyundai,** Ph: 9538879235 **Channarayapatna: KPR Hyundai,** Ph: 9538879238 **Kollegala: KPR Hyundai,** Ph: 9606478215, **Sakleshpura: KPR Hyundai, Ph:** 9538879238 **Raichur: Shah Hyundai,** Ph: 9108049252 **Bidar: Shah Hyundai,** Ph: 7625093556 **Yadgir: Shah Hyundai,** Ph: 9108049262 **Sindhanur: Shah Hyundai,** Ph: 9071411136/9513897444 **Basavakalyan: Shah Hyundai,** Ph: 7353307776 **Madikeri: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 9538971151 **Kushalnagar: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 9538971149 **Gonikoppa: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 9945774088 **Belthangady: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 77609 62819 **Sullia: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 7760962813 **Chikmagalur: Rahul Hyundai,** Ph: 7795800038 **Sagara: Rahul Hyundai,** Ph: 7625080180 **Thirthahalli: Rahul Hyundai,** Ph: 7625080183 **Shikaripura: Rahul Hyundai,** Ph: 9108843230, **Kadur: Rahul Hyundai,** Ph: Ph: 6366974514 **Puttur: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 9740873450 **Surathkal: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 9482574530 **Karkala: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 8762464853, **Kundapura: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 9900145948 **Kumta: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 9535855966 **Sirsi: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 9731856300 **Karwara: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 6366770399, **Kadri: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 7353506111, **Hospet: Anika Hyundai,** Ph: 8884484018 **Ballari: Anika Hyundai,** Ph: 8884484020 **Koppal: Anika Hyundai,** Ph: 8884484031

*Terms & Conditions apply. ~Ex-showroom price mentioned is for HX 2 MT (Kappa 1.2 l MPi Petrol) variant. Creative shown is for representation purpose only. Features & specifications shown may vary or not be a part of standard fitment & are subject to change without prior notice. Hyundai Motor India Limited reserves the right to change specifications, colour, equipment and schemes at any time without prior notice. Images shown are for creative representation. The black shade on glasses is due to lighting effect. Size, colour may vary due to lighting and positioning effects. Bluelink functionality is dependent on adequate power supply and uninterrupted network connectivity. The Bluelink system is designed in such a way that it makes vehicle theft difficult if its circuit and battery connection is uninterrupted. Hyundai SmartSense, the Advanced Driver Assistance System is not a substitute for safe and attentive driving. Its effectiveness depends on various factors. Availability of Hyundai SmartSense Features may differ by variants. ##Upto 7 years extended warranty is applicable for all variants. It is applicable for upto 7 years or 1 40 000 kms whichsoever is earlier. *For detailed terms & conditions of warranty refer owner's manual. **For detailed terms & conditions of extended warranty & Shield of Trust/Super/Bodycare kindly visit Hyundai India website, https://www.hyundai.co.in/. Extended warranty, RSA and Shield of Trust Packages are on payable basis. For more details, consult the nearest Hyundai authorized dealer. Hyundai urges you to follow traffic rules-these are meant to keep you safe on roads.

INNOCEAN-056/25

Bengaluru among world's top 10 densely populated cities: UN report

India home to five megacities; Mumbai tops global density list with 30k people per sq km

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Bengaluru is among the world's top ten most densely populated cities, according to a new UN report, which says that India is home to five of the 33 global megacities, compared to China's four.

Of the world's 50 most densely populated cities, 12 are in India. Mumbai tops the list with a density of nearly 30,000 per sq km. Four Indian cities—Mumbai, Surat, Ahmedabad and Bengaluru, which has a density of over 20,000 per sq km—feature in the top 10.

The report released by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs says the world is becoming increasingly urban, with cities now home to 45% of the global population of 8.2 billion.

Looking ahead through 2050, two-thirds of global population growth is projected to occur in cities, and most of the remaining one-third in towns.

Of 33 megacities with a population of 10 million or more, India houses five, including Bengaluru. The other four cities are Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

Jakarta has emerged as the world's most populous city with 42 million residents, followed by Dhaka with 37 million, and Tokyo with 33 million. The two Indian cities in the top 10 are New Delhi (30 million) and Kolkata (22 million). Cairo (Egypt) is the only non-Asian city among the top 10.

Bengaluru has a population density of over 20,000 people per sq km. DH FILE

CROWDED FUTURE

- India houses 12 of world's 50 densest cities
- India has 5 megacities (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru) vs China's 4
- By 2050, two-thirds of population growth projected in cities

The report coincides with the UN climate summit in Brazil, where countries are negotiating on emission cuts and creation of more carbon sinks.

"As governments convene at COP30 to advance global climate commitments, the UN underscores the pivotal role of urbanisation in driving sustainable development and climate resilience," Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, said.

Taken together, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Bangladesh and Ethiopia are expected to add more than 500 million city residents between 2025 and 2050, accounting for over half of the projected 986 million increase in the global number of city dwellers.

However, population growth is not happening uniformly. More than one quarter of India's cities lost population between 2015 and 2025, even as the country's population grew by an average of 1% per year.

India asks rich nations to pay climate finance

NEW DELHI, DHNS: With climate negotiations entering the final phase at COP30 in Belem, India has asked the rich nations to provide climate finance "at a scale of trillions and not billions" while renewing its demand of making climate technologies free from "restrictive intellectual property barriers".

At the ongoing UN climate summit in Brazil, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said the developed countries must reach net zero—not adding greenhouse gas to the environment—far earlier than current target dates.

"Developed countries must reach net zero far earlier than current target dates and deliver new, additional, and concessional climate finance at a scale of trillions, not billions... Climate technology must be free from restrictive intellectual property barriers," he said on Tuesday, flagging the need for affordable and accessible climate technology for a developing country like India.

Bhupender Yadav

Yadav is leading the Indian delegation at the high-level segment, where negotiators from various countries will debate the level of commitments on emission reduction and providing finance to climate-vulnerable countries to adapt to and mitigate the consequences of climate change.

Asked when India would be submitting its revised NDC (nationally determined contribution on emission cuts till 2035), the minister said the plan was before the Union Cabinet for approval and was likely to be submitted by December.

NDCs are national climate plans under the Paris Agreement that set targets to cut emissions and adapt to climate change, guiding global efforts to limit warming to below two degrees Celsius, preferably below 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

Countries are now required to submit their third round of NDCs, referred to as "NDCs 3.0", that will spell out the emissions cut steps they would be taking between 2026 and 2035.

Yadav said India's emission intensity declined by over 36% since 2005, and non-fossil sources accounted for more than half of India's total electric power installed capacity (currently around 256 GW), an NDC target achieved five years ahead of our 2030 goal.

Centre returns metro rail plans for Madurai & Coimbatore

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

In a setback to the DMK dispensation's plans to build metro rail networks in Coimbatore and Madurai, the Union government has returned the Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of the two projects, saying the cities do not meet the population criteria under the National Metro Rail Policy, 2017.

The state government had prepared DPRs that proposed two corridors for Coimbatore and one for Madurai and sent them to the Union government for approval, since metro projects are implemented by both governments.

In a letter sent to the state government on November 14, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said both cities don't qualify for the metro network and asked the administration to find suitable modes of transport. The communication said Madurai's population was 15 lakh and Coimbatore's 15.84 lakh as per the 2011 Census.

The National Metro Rail Policy says, to qualify for a metro rail network, the city's population should be at least 20 lakh. "We are studying the communication," a government official told *DH*.

Though the population in both cities are above 20 lakh in 2025, the Centre will only count the 2011 population figure as the decadal Census has not been conducted since 2020.

The ministry noted that Metro projects are expensive and should be planned for long-term sustainability.

The return of the DPRs is set to snowball into a political controversy as the DMK was keen on projects that are likely to change the landscape of Madurai and Coimbatore. With Assembly elections just months away, the DMK is likely to use the development to its political advantage.

SIR drive expedited in Kerala even as row reaches SC

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Even as the Kerala government on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court against the SIR of the electoral roll, and more booth-level officers (BLOs) voiced concerns over mounting work stress, the Election Commission is pressing ahead with the exercise, having completed 96% of form distribution.

In its petition, the state government urged that the SIR in Kerala be deferred until the ongoing local body electioneering concludes. An all-party meeting convened by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had earlier decided to seek legal remedies against the revision.

The Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee also approached the apex court.

Meanwhile, more BLOs have spoken out against the pressure they face. A woman officer from Kollam told a news channel that targets were being set "like financial institutions giving business targets to employees". After day-long door-to-door enumeration, she said, officers were required to attend online reviews at night, with those failing to meet targets marked in red.

Tharoor skips key Cong meet

NEW DELHI, DHNS: On a day he spoke about his presence at a lecture being delivered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi "despite battling a bad cold and cough", senior MP and Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Shashi Tharoor on Tuesday missed a meeting called by the party leadership to review the contentious Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in 12 states.

Congress accuses EC of 'sinister voter deletions'

Rahul urges leaders to wage political battle on SIR

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress on Tuesday asked its state leaders to ensure that "irregularities" in draft electoral rolls prepared after the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in 12 states do not go unchallenged as in Bihar, even as it accused the Election Commission of being on a "sinister" mission to delete votes of "some sections of society".

Leaders and Congress Working Committee members from 12 states and union territories were called for a meeting chaired by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and attended by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal. The party will organise a rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan in early December against SIR and 'vote chori'.

Sources said the view among the leaders was that the SIR was "exclusionary" in nature and the time given for completing the exercise is far less compared to the time taken for similar exercises in the past. State leaders informed the central leadership that they have appointed adequate Booth Level Agents and conducted training for them.

The central leaders asked state functionaries to ensure that claims and objections are filed if they find any deliberate inclusion or deletion from the draft rolls. In Bihar, they said, Congress did not file claims and objections, which gave the EC a handle to claim that the rolls were genuine and that parties had not found discrepancies.

Leaders were told to involve legal teams in filing claims and objections after draft rolls are published, and later to pursue appeals and second appeals after the final list. Rahul told the meeting that it is the duty of the EC to prepare a "pure" voter list but it is not ready to do so, urging party leaders to wage a "strong political battle" on the issue.

Rahul said parties like BJP and Congress may have mechanisms to monitor the SIR exercise, but this may not be the case for smaller parties. The responsibility of ensuring that no one loses their vote should lie with the EC and not be placed on political parties. "Shouldn't smaller parties be able to operate in this country?" he asked.

He claimed that one should not expect justice from the EC, which he said is acting like a "party faction".

'Failed to read Bihar': Kishor apologises for poll loss, vows to stay in politics

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Jan Suraaj founder Prashant Kishor on Tuesday apologised to the people of Bihar for his party's electoral debacle, but reiterated that he would neither quit politics nor leave the state.

"I failed to read Bihar properly, unlike Nitish Kumar and BJP's Samrat Choudhary, who divided people on caste and religious lines and bought votes using public money," said the poll strategist-turned-politician. "It's true I did not get votes. But at least I did not indulge in corruption or divisive politics to get them."

Kishor also tore into the NDA government, accusing it of "open bribery" by doling out Rs 10,000 each to 1.5 crore women on the eve of polling, along with promises of an additional Rs 2 lakh under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojna for self-employment initiatives.

Prashant Kishor addresses a press conference in Patna on Tuesday. PTI

DOLE & DEFEAT

- Prashant Kishor rules out quitting politics or leaving the state
- Says NDA won because of Rs 10,000 dole to 1.5 crore women
- Claims JD(U) wouldn't have crossed 25 seats without cash handouts
- Warns Nitish and Modi to deliver on promises, especially Rs 2 lakh aid for women

He claimed that Nitish's victory hinged on pre-poll cash handouts, insisting the JD(U) would not have crossed 25 seats without the Rs 10,000 dole to 1.5 crore women.

Dismissing speculation that he would quit politics if Nitish surpassed that mark, the Jan Suraaj chief asked, "What post am I holding that I need to resign?"

He vowed to introspect and work harder for a "better Bihar", promising to focus on jobs and migration even as he acknowledged the NDA's sweeping mandate. The landslide verdict has put greater responsibility on Nitish and Narendra Modi, he said. "It's time they fulfil the promises made. Women must now get the Rs 2 lakh assistance as promised. If they don't, we will take up the cudgels on their behalf and fight until they get their due."

The Jan Suraaj founder rejected claims that Bihar's one-sided result was mainly due to "vote chori".

Boycott hits Maha Cabinet ahead of local polls

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

The nearly year-old BJP-led Maha Yuti government in Maharashtra plunged into crisis on Tuesday as several ministers from the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena boycotted the weekly Cabinet meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The rift comes ahead of local body elections, where allies have been poaching each other's leaders and workers at the grassroots.

The Shiv Sena is upset over the BJP inducting large numbers of its workers, particularly in Thane—Shinde's bastion. Shinde himself attended the Cabinet meeting, as well as two other sessions.

Neither Fadnavis nor Shinde has commented on the issue.

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar distanced the NCP from the row, downplaying the developments.

UNEASY ALLIANCE

- Rift after BJP inducts Sena workers in Thane and Kalyan-Dombivli, Shinde's stronghold
- Ajit Pawar downplays rift as routine poll activity
- Ministers Bawankule & Samant insist 'no boycott, no problems'
- Allies agree on no-poaching pact for leaders and corporators

The immediate trigger appears to be defections from the Shiv Sena to the BJP in Kalyan-Dombivli, home turf of Shinde's family and state BJP president Ravindra Chavan.

Earlier in the day, Shiv Sena ministers held a pre-Cabinet meeting before Shinde led a delegation to Fadnavis, complaining about the BJP's moves in Kalyan-Dombivli and elsewhere. Fadnavis reportedly reminded them that Shiv Sena had earlier admitted BJP members in Ulhasnagar.

A series of meetings followed — Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule met Shinde, while Industry Minister Uday Samant met Chavan.

Samant insisted, "There is no disgruntlement. There was no boycott of the Cabinet meeting," though he himself skipped it.

Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik said a solution was reached. Maha Yuti allies (BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP) agreed not to induct each other's leaders, office-bearers, or former corporators. "This will be implemented from now," he said.

Baba Siddique murder: Anmol Bishnoi being deported from US

MUMBAI, DHNS: In a crucial development in the sensational killing of Maharashtra politician and former minister Baba Siddique, the alleged mastermind Anmol Bishnoi, brother of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, is being brought to India from the United States.

Baba Siddique

Bishnoi is expected to land in Delhi on Wednesday.

Anmol is also wanted in connection with the firing outside actor Salman Khan's residence and the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala.

Siddique (66), who shared close ties with Salman Khan and several other Hindi film industry stars, was a celebrity in his own right.

He was shot dead on October 12, 2024, in Mumbai's Bandra East.

The Nirmal Nagar police station initially registered an FIR, but the Crime Branch-CID later joined the investigation.

In January this year, Mumbai Police filed the chargesheet. So far, 26 people have been arrested in connection with the murder.

In his statement to police, Siddique's son and former MLA Zeeshan Siddique named several builders and political leaders linked to slum rehabilitation projects in Bandra, seeking a probe into their suspected role in his father's killing.

Pune land deal probe: 3 indicted, Parth Pawar not mentioned

PUNE, PTI: A Joint Inspector General of Registration (IGR) headed committee, in its report into a controversial Rs 300-crore land deal of a Pune firm co-owned by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's son Parth, has indicted the three persons named in the related police FIR, an official said.

Parth Pawar

The report of the three-member panel, submitted on Tuesday, however, did not mention Parth Pawar as his name did not appear on any document, the senior official said.

Joint IGR Rajendra Muthe submitted the report to IGR Ravindra Binwade, who forwarded it to Pune Divisional Commissioner Chandrakant Pulkundwar.

The sale of 40 acres of land in Pune's upscale Mundhwa area to Amadea Enterprises LLP, in which Parth is a partner, came under the scanner after it emerged that the plot belongs to the government and could not be sold, and the firm was exempted from the payment of Rs 21 crore in stamp duty.

"Since Parth Pawar's name does not come on record in the entire sale deed, he can not be indicted in the probe. The report, however, indicted all those who are directly involved in the deal, including suspended government official (sub-registrar) Ravindra Taru," said the official.

The other two named in the report were Digvijay Patil (Parth's business partner and cousin) and Sheetal Tejwani (who held the power of attorney on behalf of the land sellers).

Taru, Patil, and Tejwani are named as accused in a First Information Report registered by the police.

The Muthe committee report also recommended measures to prevent such fraudulent deals in the future, he said.

SMART MOVE

Govt launches AI platform to gather PDS feedback

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Tuesday launched an AI-based platform ASHA to seek feedback from beneficiaries under the public distribution system and directed officials to take action on grievances expeditiously.

The minister launched a suite of digital initiatives aimed at modernising warehousing operations, improving supply chain efficiency and enhancing transparency across the public distribution system (PDS).

The initiatives launched on Tuesday include: 'Bhandaran 360'—a cloud-based ERP platform at Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC); 'Smart EXIM' Warehouse to automate CWC's CFC/ICD operations; Food Corporation of India (FCI)'s 'Anna Darpan' cloud platform for integrated grain operations; ASHA AI system.

Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said Anna Sahayata Holistic AI Solution (ASHA), an AI-based platform that allows beneficiaries to share their feedback on ration distribution through automated calls in their preferred language.

Backed by India AI mission via Bhashini's multilingual AI infrastructure, ASHA was developed in partnership with Wadhwani Foundation. It began with pilots in five states, expanded to 15 more and will reach 20 lakh citizens per month across all 36 states and UTs by March 2026, an official statement said.

The CWC's ERP platform, Bhandaran 360, integrates 41 modules covering HR, finance, marketing, warehouse management, contract management, project monitoring and other core functions. It is also linked with 35 external systems enabling seamless digital connectivity across the food storage and movement ecosystem.

2.25 cr ineligible ration beneficiaries removed

The Centre on Tuesday said it removed about 2.25 crore ineligible beneficiaries of the free monthly ration scheme in the last 4-5 months. Many of these beneficiaries had passed away or had directorship in companies and owned four-wheelers. The 5 kg free foodgrains is provided to only the poor as a means for providing them with monthly sustenance, reports DHNS.

'A step in retrogression': Justice Bhuyan's strong dissent on environmental clearances

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Supreme Court judge Ujjal Bhuyan, delivering a dissenting verdict on Tuesday in the case of retrospective environmental clearances (ECs), said that such approvals are "unknown" and "anathema" to environmental law, as they run contrary to both the precautionary principle and the need for sustainable development.

Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran, however, ordered the recall of the May verdict and referred the matter to an appropriate bench for fresh consideration. Reversing its own verdict, the SC has paved the way for retrospective ECs by the Centre and other authorities to projects found violating norms.

Strongly dissenting, Justice Bhuyan described the review judgment as a "step in retrogression". Citing the air pollution crisis in the national capital, he observed that the "deadly" Delhi smog serves as a daily reminder of the hazards of environmental pollution.

JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYAN

"Post-facto grant of EC is unknown and anathema to environmental law as they are contrary to both the precautionary principle as well as the need for sustainable development.

"There is no concept called ex post facto EC in environmental jurisprudence. It cannot be countenanced. It is an anathema. This is because it is detrimental to the environment and could lead to irreparable ecological degradation," he wrote in his 96-page verdict.

"It is a completely untenable binary inasmuch as ecology and development are not adversaries. Both are part of the constitutional construct of sustainable development. At the cost of repetition, it is reiterated that there is no antinomy between development and environment," he added.

Justice Bhuyan said the SC has the duty and obligation under the Constitution to safeguard the environment. "It cannot be seen backtracking on the sound environmental jurisprudence that has evolved in this country, that too, on a review petition filed by persons who have shown scant regard for the rule of law," he said.

Justice Bhuyan said the review judgment is an "innocent expression" of opinion and overlooks the very fundamentals of environmental jurisprudence. "Precautionary principle is the cornerstone of environmental jurisprudence. Polluter pays is only a principle of reparation... The review judgment is a step in retrogression," he said.

The May 16 verdict by a bench of Justice A S Oka, since retired, and Justice Bhuyan had barred the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change from granting retrospective clearance to projects that are found in violation of environmental norms.

Bengaluru Wednesday, November 19, 2025 Pages 18 Vol 78 No 319 ₹7

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Pocso case: Court summons BSY to appear on Dec 2

Page 4

Red Fort blast: Al-Falah Group chairman arrested

Taken into custody after ED searches at 19 premises

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Al-Falah Group Chairman Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday after day-long searches at premises linked to the group-run university, which is facing scrutiny following the involvement of some of its faculty in suspected terror activities, threw up evidence of alleged money laundering.

Siddiqui was taken into custody under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in the evening following the searches that started at 5.15 am. The ED seized around Rs 48 lakh in cash during the searches at 19 premises of the Al Falah Trust and university, including key personnel overseeing its finance and administration.

The action came days after Home Minister Amit Shah ordered a forensic audit of records of Al-Falah University and an investigation by ED and other financial investigating agencies into the dealings of the trust that ran Al-Falah University, a private university in Dhauj in Faridabad.

▸ ED, Page 6

Security guards outside the Al-Falah University during the ED raids. PTI

UNIVERSITY UNDER SCANNER

- Al-Falah varsity under scanner after White Collar Terror Module busted
- Govt ordered forensic audit of all records of Al-Falah University following arrest of some of its faculty in terror case
- Also ordered probe by ED and other financial investigating agencies
- Role of nine shell companies under scanner
- PF, ESI filings of Trust and other entities apparently inconsistent with scale of operations

Umar justifies suicide strike in video

The Red Fort suicide blast probe has uncovered a chilling portrait of a radicalised doctor who left behind videos justifying suicide attacks.

Details on Page 7

MEGA PLANS

- Separate secretariat for NRIs to streamline services
- International complex to house global business houses
- World-class AI city spread over 9,000 acres near Bidadi
- K'taka aims to capture 50% of the national space tech market
- Creation of 25,000 startups over the next five years

South B'luru to house city's 2nd airport: DKS

CM launches IT, space, startup policies at tech summit

BENGALURU, DHNS

The government is considering a second airport in south Bengaluru, said Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar at the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 on Tuesday, where Chief Minister Siddaramaiah unveiled the Karnataka Space Technology, IT and Startup Policy 2025-30.

The state government had finalised three locations for the second international airport: two on Kanakapura Road near Kaggalipura and Harohalli in the south and a third site on Nelamangala-Kunigal Road.

Inaugurating the three-day tech summit, Siddaramaiah said the state has always led the country in policy innovation. Karnataka launched the country's first IT policy in 1997, he said and that the new policy is aimed at transforming the state into a global destination for innovation and deep tech.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Shivakumar said, "We are spending over Rs 1 lakh crore to improve Bengaluru's infrastructure." He listed out mega projects, including a 40-km twin tunnel costing Rs 42,500 crore, a double decker metro line (41 km) costing Rs 18,000 crore and the 74-km Bengaluru Business Corridor costing Rs 27,000 crore. He said the government will start a separate secretariat for NRIs to streamline services and a residential layout for NRIs.

▸ Airport, Page 4

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge (left) with CM Siddaramaiah and DyCM D K Shivakumar at the Bengaluru Tech Summit on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANT H G

200-acre semicon park in KWIN City

Industries Minister M B Patil said on Tuesday the government will establish a 200-acre semiconductor park in the upcoming KWIN city. "The park will be equipped with all facilities and will serve as a major innovation hub for the semiconductor industry," he said.

More reports on Page 12

Top Maoist commander Hidma killed in AP encounter

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

In a major blow to the CPI Maoists, the Andhra Pradesh police killed top naxal leader Madvi Hidma (55) in an encounter at Maredumilli forest in Alluri Seetharama Raju district on Tuesday. The operation, which marked another setback for the Maoists following the launch of Operation Kagar, also resulted in the deaths of Hidma's wife Raje and four of his security guards.

Hidma, who commanded Battalion 1 of the People's Guerrilla Liberation Army (PGLA), had long remained one of the most elusive figures in the Maoist hierarchy. As a member of the Central Committee of the banned outfit and a key figure in the party's Central Military Commission, the Maoists' principal combat wing, he held significant influence within the organisation.

Recently designated as secretary of the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee, Hidma was responsible for overseeing party activities across Chhattisgarh's Bastar division, a crucial operational region for the insurgents.

According to reports, the encounter erupted around 6 am in Maredumilli forests.

▸ Encounter, Page 6

ELUSIVE FIGURE

- Hidma commanded Battalion 1 of People's Guerrilla Liberation Army
- Was one of the most elusive figures in the Maoist hierarchy
- Was responsible for overseeing party activities across Bastar division
- His death marks another setback for the Maoists

Master of guerrilla warfare

Known for his mastery in guerrilla warfare, Madvi Hidma had been one of the most feared and astute leaders of the CPI (Maoist). He rose from being an impoverished tribal youth in Bastar.

Details on Page 7

HC junks cops' fingerprint plea

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition filed by the Bengaluru police seeking permission to establish the identity of a deceased woman by matching her fingerprints with the data available with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Page 3

Human trafficker held

The Gujarat police on Tuesday arrested the key accused behind a international human trafficking and cyber crime ring run by Chinese mafias from Myanmar and Cambodia. The accused, known as "The Ghost", was behind trafficking of over 500 people from various countries, including India. P 7

Baby delivered in corridor, dies

A newborn died after a woman delivered the infant in the corridor of the Women and Children Wing of District Hospital in Haveri on Tuesday morning. The baby reportedly fell on the floor and suffered a fatal head injury when the mother gave birth and was on her way to the restroom. Page 5

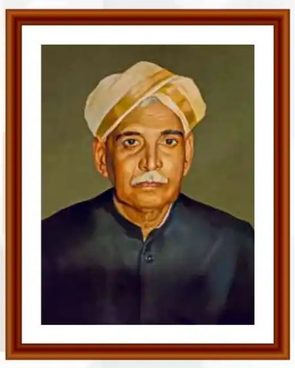
Vijayapura airport could open soon as SC recalls order

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Decks seem to have been cleared for the inauguration of Vijayapura airport in Karnataka. The Supreme Court on Tuesday recalled its May 16, 2025 judgment that had prohibited the Centre from granting retrospective environmental clearances to projects that had violated norms.

A bench of Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and Ujjal Bhuyan by a majority of 2:1 allowed review of the previous judgment that had barred granting retrospective environmental clearance.

Details on Page 5

In fond memory of our beloved founders



Shri. Chikka Muniyappa Reddy
(1907 - 1982)

CMR UNIVERSITY
Private University Estd in Karnataka State by Act No. 46 of 2013

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
CMR GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

EKYA SCHOOLS

Smt. Ashwathamma
Chikka Muniyappa Reddy (1917 - 2002)

THE TRUSTEES OF CMR JNANADHARA TRUST AND MANAGEMENT OF CMR GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS & EKYA SCHOOLS
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO

Founder's Day 2025

Wednesday, 19th November 2025

Inauguration of Academic Block, Distribution of CMR Leadership Awards, Sports and CMR Scholarships

Time: 10:30 AM
Venue: CMR University, Lakeside Campus, Off Hennur-Bagalur Road, Chagalatti, Bengaluru - 562149

CHIEF GUESTS

Shri. Ramalinga Reddy
Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Muzrai
Government of Karnataka

Dr. K P Gopalkrishna
Chairman NPS Group of institutions, NAFL and TISB

Dr. C Honnappa Gowda
International Kabaddi Player & Arjuna Awardee

GUEST OF HONOUR

Dr. K C Ramamurthy, IPS (Retd.)
Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha,
Chairman, CMR Group of Institutions & CMR University,
Chairman, Ekya Board of Governors

PRESIDING

Dr. Sabitha Ramamurthy
President, CMR Jnanadhara Trust,
Chancellor, CMR University,
Co-Chairperson, Ekya Board of Governors

Award of CMR Seva Puraskara for Life Time Achievement, Distribution of Service Awards, Felicitation of Academic Achievers

Time: 04:30 PM
Venue: CMR National Public School, HRBR Layout, Bengaluru - 560084

CHIEF GUESTS

Shri. Jaggesh
Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

Shri. Sharath Bache Gowda
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly
Chairman, KEONICS

Shri. H S Chandramouli
Senior Advocate, High Court of Karnataka

GUEST OF HONOUR

Dr. K C Ramamurthy, IPS (Retd.)
Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha,
Chairman, CMR Group of Institutions & CMR University,
Chairman, Ekya Board of Governors

PRESIDING

Dr. Sabitha Ramamurthy
President, CMR Jnanadhara Trust,
Chancellor, CMR University,
Co-Chairperson, Ekya Board of Governors

Shri. Jayadeep K R Reddy
CEO, CMR Group of Institutions
Pro-Chancellor, CMR University
Director, Ekya Schools,

Dr. Tristha Ramamurthy
Founder, Ekya Schools,
Vice President, CMR Group of Institutions
Provost, CMR University

Shri. K C Jagannath Reddy
Secretary, CMR Jnanadhara Trust

Dr. H B Raghavendra
Vice Chancellor, CMR University

Trustees: Smt. Anitha Kasu Rajagopal Reddy • Smt. Shobha Hanuma Reddy • Shri. K R Lakshmish,
Sons, Daughters-in-law, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Grand children, Great Grand children, Governing Council, Board of Governors, Management, Staff and Students

CMR UNIVERSITY: School of Architecture • School of Design • School of Engineering & Technology • School of Economics & Commerce • School of Management • School of Science & Computer Studies • School of Legal Studies • School of Liberal Studies • School of Allied & Healthcare Sciences • College of Nursing
COLLEGES: CMR Institute of Technology **PU COLLEGES:** CMR National PU College, HRBR Layout • CMR National PU College, ITPL • CMR National PU College, Byrathi • CMR National PU College, NICE Road • CMR National PU College, BTM
SCHOOLS: CMR National Public School, HRBR Layout • NPS International, Singapore • Ekya School, ITPL • Ekya School, BTM • Ekya School, JP Nagar • Ekya School, Byrathi • Ekya School, NICE Road • Ekya Nava, Panathur Road

Rs 32-cr digital arrest scam: Culprits will be apprehended, says HM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday assured that those responsible for the digital arrest scam, in which a 57-year-old woman from Bengaluru was defrauded of Rs 31.83 crore, would be brought to justice.

Parameshwara

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Parameshwara stated that this is the largest sum lost by a single individual in the state due to this scam.

"The money was transferred in 187 transactions over an extended period. Her delay in reporting the crime reflects the immense impact it had on her. We are treating this matter with utmost seriousness and will ensure the suspects are caught," he affirmed.

The case, reported by *DH* on Monday, involves a senior IT professional from Indiranagar who lost a substantial amount after falling victim to the digital arrest scam over six months. A probe was launched, and police are reviewing the transaction trail.

Adigas yatra ®
Recognised by Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India
Luxury Tour Packages
Email: care@adigasyatra.com
Website: www.adigasyatra.com
+91 9449478944
01
Australia - 13 Days
Sydney : Blue Mountain, Wollongong. Melbourne : Penguin Parade, Great Ocean Road.
Cairns : Kuranda, Great Barrier Reef. Gold Coast : Seaworld, Crystal Castle & Shambhala Gardens.
Brisbane.
Dates: 2026: JAN 11, 25. FEB 8, 15, 22. MAR 8, 15, 22. APR 5, 19.
7022259008
02
Dubai - 6 Days
Dhow cruise, Dubai city, Abu Dhabi City, Burj Khalifa, Desert Safari,
Dubai Frame, Global Village.
Dates: 2025: DEC 11, 18. 2026: JAN 8, 15, 29. FEB 5, 12, 26. MAR 5, 12, 26
7975001525
03
Singapore – Malaysia – Thailand 4 / 5 / 7 / 8 / 11 / 15 Days
Singapore: Universal Studios, Sentosa Island, Wings of Time,
Cable Car, Singapore City Tour, Gardens by the Bay, Sea Aquarium.
Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur City Tour, Putrajaya, Genting Highland.
Thailand: Pattaya, Coral Island, Alcazar Show, Nong Nooch Village, Bangkok City Tour,
Safari World & Marine Park.
Dates: 2025: DEC 5, 12. 2026: JAN 9, 16, 23. FEB 6, 13, 20. MAR 6, 13, 20.
7483366378
04
Cambodia – Vietnam 4 / 6 / 7 / 10 / 12 Days
Cambodia: Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Angkor Wat, Tonle Sap, Thousand Lingas River.
Vietnam: Hanoi, Ninh Binh, Halong Bay, Da Nang, Hoi An, Ba Na Hills, Mekong Delta,
Ho Chi Minh City, Cu Chi Tunnels.
Dates: 2025: DEC 4, 11.
2026: JAN 8, 15, 29. FEB 5, 12, 26. MAR 5, 12, 26.
7022259007
05
Bali – The Land of Gods 5 / 7 / 9 Days
Denpasar, Nusa Penida Island, Kintamani, Ubud, Garuda Wisnu Cultural Park, Tanah Lot,
Beratan Lake, Ulun Danu, Taman Ayun, Tanjung Benoa Beach, Uluwatu, Besakih, Tirta Empul,
Lempuyang Temple, Tirta Gangga, Kings Palace, Bat Caves Temple.
Dates: 2025: DEC 1, 15. 2026: JAN 5, 19. FEB 2, 16. MAR 2, 16.
9364104373
06
Naturally Nepal 5 / 9 Days
Lumbini, Pokhara, Phewa Lake, Manokamana, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Doleshwar Mahadev,
Royal Chitwan National Park, Janakpur etc
Dates: 2025: DEC 4, 11, 18. 2026: JAN 15, 29. FEB 12, 26. MAR 12, 26.
9364088424
07
Srilanka Ramayana Trails 5 / 7 / 8 Days
Ramayana Temples, Manavari Temple, Munneswaram Temple, Trincomalee, Matale,
Sigiriya Rock Photostop, Kandy, Tooth Relic, Ramboda Hanuman, Tea Factory, Nuwara Eliya,
Ashoka Vatika, Sita Agnipariksha, Bentota Beach, Madu River Safari, Vibhishana Temple,
Colombo City Tour.
Dates: 2025: DEC 4, 11, 18. 2026: JAN 8, 15, 29. FEB 5, 12, 26. MAR 5, 12, 26.
9364104366
08
Andaman Islands - 5 Days
Havelock (Swaraj deep) Island, Port Blair, Cellular jail, Ross Island, North Bay Island
Dates: 2025: DEC 3, 17. 2026:
JAN 7, 21. FEB 4, 18. MAR 4, 18.
7975001525
09
Rameshwaram - Kanyakumari – Thiruvananthapuram 4 Days
Madurai, Rameshwaram, Kanyakumari, Suchindram, Nagercoil, Thiruvananthapuram.
Dates: 2025: DEC 3, 17. 2026: JAN 7, 21. FEB 4, 18. MAR 4, 18.
9364104373
10
Assam – Meghalaya - 7 Days
Guwahati, Kamakya, Kaziranga, Nagaon Maha Mrityunjaya, Shillong, Dawki, Mawlynnong,
Living root Bridge, Cherrapunji, Mawsmai Caves.
Dates: 2025: DEC 10, 17. 2026:
JAN 14, 21, 28. FEB 11, 18, 25. MAR 11, 18, 25.
7022259008
11
Puri - Konark – Bhubaneshwar - 4 Days
Bhubaneshwar, Khandagiri & Udayagiri, Dhauli, Pipli, Konark, Puri, Chilika Lake, Raghurajpur.
Dates: 2025: DEC 10, 17.
2026: JAN 14, 28. FEB 11, 25. MAR 11, 25.
9364104373
12
Madhya Pradesh - 4 / 9 Days
Indore, Omkareshwar, Maheshwar, Mandu, Ujjain, Bhopal, Sanchi, Khajuraho, Jabalpur.
Dates: 2025: DEC 3, 10, 17.
2026: JAN 7, 14, 21, 28. FEB 11, 18, 25. MAR 11, 18, 25.
7022259007
13
Gujarat Temples - 6 / 9 Days
Ahmedabad, Somanath, Porbandar, Dwaraka, Nageshwar, Modhera,
Siddhpur (Mathru Gaya)
Dates: 2025: DEC 3, 10, 17. 2026: JAN 7, 14, 21, 28. FEB 11, 18, 25.
7022259007
14
Royal Rajasthan - 8 Days
Jaipur, Ajmer, Pushkar, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Desert, Jodhpur.
Dates: 2025: DEC 3, 10, 17.
2026: JAN 7, 21. FEB 4, 18. MAR 4, 18.
7975001525
15
Kashi - Gaya – Ayodhya - 6 / 7 Days
Varanasi, Prayagraj, Gaya, Bodhgaya, Saranath, Ayodhya
Dates: 2025: DEC 3, 17.
2026: JAN 7, 21. FEB 11, 25. MAR 4, 18. APR 8, 22.
9364104366
16
Golden Triangle Tour - 6 Days
Delhi, Mathura, Brindavan, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Jaipur
Dates: 2025: DEC 3, 17.
2026: JAN 7, 21. FEB 4, 18. MAR 4, 18. APR 8, 22.
9364104366

Crypto trail puts gaming promoters under ED scanner

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday alleged that its probe indicated promoters of two gaming companies laundering money through cryptocurrency.

The central agency held simultaneous raids in 11 premises belonging to the operators of the WinZO app and Gameskraft (pocket52.com) under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

"Of the 11, five premises are in Bengaluru, four in Delhi and two in Gurugram. Searches are being carried out at the corporate office premises of these gaming operators, along with the residences of the respective CEO/COO/CFO," a ED source said.

During the search, ED officials found that promoters "own crypto wallets, indicating laundering through cryptocurrencies".

The ED said the raids stemmed from FIRs filed by victims who alleged that these gaming companies manipulated the algorithm of the app, placing gamers at a disadvantage.

"The ED is also trying to establish what were these exact manipulations alleged in the FIRs," sources said.

Further probe is underway and the agency is yet to reveal the full extent of the recoveries from the searches.

19 arrested in drug bust; narcotics worth Rs 7.7 cr seized

14 foreigners among those nabbed in citywide raids

BENGALURU, DHNS

Continuing its crackdown on drugs, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Bengaluru police arrested 19 people, including 14 foreign nationals, and recovered narcotic substances worth Rs 7.7 crore.

The seizure of 2.804 kg of MDMA crystals and 2.100 kg of hydro ganja followed a series of coordinated raids across the city.

In SG Palya, police arrested a Nigerian woman allegedly involved in peddling drugs and recovered 60 grams of MDMA crystals, valued at approximately Rs 1.52 crore. Probe revealed the suspect did not have valid documents and was in the city peddling drugs.

In a second operation, a house was raided in B Narayanapura, Mahadevapura, and five local drug peddlers were arrested. Police recovered 600 grams of hydroponic ganja valued at approximately Rs 60 lakh. Five mobile phones were seized to help unravel the network. Their supplier, a key suspect, is at large, police said.

In another operation, a Kenyan woman was arrested and CCB officials recovered 2.044 kg of MDMA worth Rs 4.08 crore. The suspect, who worked at a salon, entered the country last year on a tourist visa, police said. She sources drugs from two absconding suspects from Tanzania and Nigeria, police added.

Another CCB team seized parcels containing 1.5 kg of hydroponic ganja at the Foreign Post Office under the KG Halli police station limits. The parcels were sent from Thailand and France, police said. A probe is on to trace the recipients.

Illegal stay network; 11 detained

In a joint operation led by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime 2) Raja Imam Kasim and officials from the Electronics City division, several places were raided and 11 foreigners staying illegally without valid documents were detained.

The detainees were produced before the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) and moved to the detention centre. Police have also opened a case against homeowners for renting without mandatory verification.

Five-member gang held for series of robberies

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kengeri police on Monday arrested a gang of five, including a notorious habitual offender, for a series of robberies in Rajarajeshwari Nagar and Kengeri on Sunday night.

The prime accused, Vignesh R, stabbed five people after picking quarrels during the robberies and threatened a couple with a dagger while they were in their car.

The arrested are Vignesh alias Avatar, 29, of Sai Layout, Bannerghatta Road; Hemanth K, 23, of Konanakunte; Balaji S, 21, and Vishal Murthy, 23, both from Pattanagere; and KR Prajwal, 23, of RR Nagar. All are habitual offenders involved in several criminal activities in the city.

A senior police officer said the gang targeted random people around midnight, attacking two students from Kerala in Mylasandra and robbing their mobile phones. They also threatened a couple in RR Nagar in an attempted robbery, then went to Global Village and attacked three men after a quarrel over bike parking. The incidents were reported to RR Nagar and Kengeri police, who swiftly arrested the gang.

Speaking to *DH*, Mohan TM, who was targeted by Vignesh, said, "I had gone for dinner with my fiancée around 11.30 pm. We were sitting in the car when a person came on a bike, threatened us saying he was a rowdy in the area, and identified himself as Vignesh. He demanded our valuables, took out a dagger and tried to attack us. Fortunately, nothing happened beyond the threats."

Techie killed by cousin brother over Rs 40-lakh loan dispute

BENGALURU, DHNS: Attibele police have solved a sensational murder case in which a software engineer was killed over a financial dispute, and his body was buried inside a house in Andhra Pradesh.

Srinath, the victim

The police have arrested the victim's cousin, Prabhakar, 40, who was involved in another murder case.

The victim, identified as Srinath (34), a native of Kuppam in Andhra Pradesh, lived with his wife and child near Nereluru, close to Attibele. He was employed at an IT firm in Bilekahalli.

A senior police officer stated that Prabhakar, Srinath's paternal uncle's son, had borrowed Rs 40 lakh from Srinath a few months ago, promising to double the amount. Recently, Srinath demanded the repayment.

On October 27, Prabhakar, a plumber by profession, invited Srinath to Kuppam under the pretext of returning the money. Srinath informed his wife before leaving and took a bus to Kuppam.

Upon entering Prabhakar's house, Srinath was attacked with a hammer. Prabhakar struck him on the head, killing him instantly. With the assistance of his friend Jagadish, Prabhakar dug a pit inside the house and buried the body.

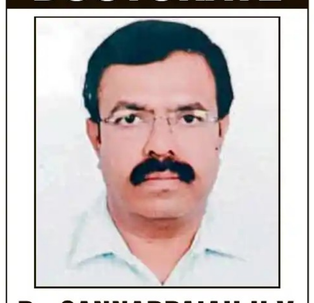
When Srinath did not return home for two days, his wife, Neha MP, filed a missing person complaint at the Attibele police station.

During the investigation, police found evidence implicating Prabhakar and Jagadish. Both were interrogated for a day and they eventually confessed to the murder.

It is reported that Prabhakar was imprisoned for aiding a friend in killing his wife over a domestic dispute several years ago.

Medicover Hospital recently organised a diabetes awareness walkathon, which was inaugurated by TV actor Bhavya Gowda. The event saw participation of over 1,000 people, including students from SEA College in KR Puram and Nallapad Bellahalli College. Unit Head Krishnamurthy, along with medical practitioners Dr Raja Selvarajan, Dr Shruthi R and Dr Samarapita Dutta Choudhury, took part in the walkathon.

APRUDENT A DOCTORATE


Dr. SANNAPPAIAH H.V.

University of Mysore, where Dr. H.N. Nagendra, conducted research under his guidance, "Sannappaiah H.V." presented his thesis titled "PLANNING FOR AN EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF TOWNPLANNING SCHEMES IN BANGALURU METROPOLITAN REGION". He has received his PhD in the subject of "Urban and Regional planning.

ASSOCIATE SIGNALING WORK AT KATIHAR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. KIR-N-2025-K-56 dated: 14-11-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Name of work:** Associate signaling work for construction of a stabling line at Balurghat station. **Tender Value:** ₹1,43,75,585/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,21,900/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** At **15.00** hrs. **& opening at 15.30 hrs. on 08-12-2025.** The complete information of above e-tender will be available upto **15.00** hrs. of **08-12-2025** in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

DRM/(S&T)/Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Electric Loco Shed, Erode

E-Tender Notice

Online tender is invited for the following work:

Tender No: SA_A_RS_ED_OT_25_26_12, Dated: 17-11-2025
Description of Work: Works contract for Mechanical repair / Rehabilitation of magnet frames (without removing coils) and both end bearing brackets of Hitachi Traction Motors of electric locomotives available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at: **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr.DEE/RS/ED

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Corrigendum to Tender Notice No.: CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/146/2025 Dated 09.10.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Agreement for Construction of New Broad Gauge Line Between Chainage 30/500 & Chainage 84/000 Including Railway Electrification, Civil Works, Signal & Telecommunication Works and Electrical General Services between Koratagere (Excl.) and Madakasira (Excl.) stations in Tumakuru-Rayadurga new BG Line Project. **(Tender Ref. No. TK-RDG-EPC-05)**	Rs. 9,92,49,38,175.00

Date of Closing	
Existing	Revised
25.11.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)	05.12.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantt.
PUB/651/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Launch of 'Dr Valuator'– An AI-based Assessment System: Wooday P Krishna; Xplore.AI, Seshadripuram Educational Trust; Seshadripuram College, Seshadripuram; 8 am.

Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services, Home Guards, Civil Defence and State Disaster Response Force– Professional and Sports Meet 2025: Inauguration: Prashanth Kumar Thakur; Fire and Emergency Services Academy, Bannerghatta Road; 9 am.

Inauguration of Annual Sports Meet: Benny Thomas, Prasath J; Sri Venkateshwara Educational Institutions; ITI Ambedkar Stadium, KR Puram; from 9 am onwards.

Children's Vachana Fair: Vachana Jyothi Balaga; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 9.30 am.

15th Annual Convocation: Guests: Sarvendranath Shukla, Konrad NKA, BK Venkatesh Prasad; Jain (Deemed-to-be) University; Prestige Srihari Khoday Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; 9.30 am.

Karnataka Rajyotsava Celebration: Folk Art Performance; Lingaraju and team; Vijaya College, 4th Block, Jayanagar; 10 am.

One-day Seminar: 'Colonial Legacy: Contributions of British Governor-Generals in Building Modern Bengaluru'; Manjula Aravind Limbavali; Government First Grade College Auditorium, Kadugodi; 10 am.

'Santavani': Khimcha Auditorium, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road; 10 am onwards.

Golden Jubilee Celebration of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board–2025: Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar, Eshwar B Khandre; Karnataka State Pollution Control Board; Krishna Vihar, Gate No 01, Palace Grounds, Ballari Road; 11 am.

International Women Entrepreneurs' Day Celebration: Guests: Aarthi Krishna, Anupama Hosakere, Revathi Kamath, Presided by: Uma Reddy; FKCCI, KG Road; from 11 am onwards.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain or drizzle

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	25.0°C
Minimum	18.5°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	67%
Sunset (Nov 19)	5:50 pm
Sunrise (Nov 20)	6:20 am
Moonrise	4:34 am
Moonset	4:23 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

DH DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

HC bars use of deceased's fingerprint for Aadhaar verification

Asks police to identify dead woman through other means

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition filed by the Bengaluru city police, seeking permission to establish the identity of a deceased woman by matching her fingerprints with data available with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

"A live fingerprint is required for authentication. As such, a dead person's fingerprint cannot be directed to be identified through a search on the UIDAI database," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said, adding that there are technical constraints in matching fingerprints with Aadhaar numbers, and that privacy and security concerns must be maintained.

The matter pertains to a case registered at the Byatarayanapura police station in 2023.

Police recovered the body of a woman, aged between 25 and 30, in the Vrushabhavathi rajakaluve. After investigations could not establish her identity, police sent a request to UIDAI in January-February 2024, seeking assistance in matching the woman's fingerprints with Aadhaar data.

In 2023, police recovered the body of a woman, aged between 25 and 30, in the Vrushabhavathi rajakaluve. After investigations could not establish her identity, police sent a request to UIDAI, seeking assistance in matching the woman's fingerprints with Aadhaar data. Police approached the court after UIDAI refused the request.

Police approached the court after UIDAI refused the request, stating that no details under the Aadhaar Act could be disclosed without a high court order, as mandated under Section 33 of the Act.

Police contended that identification of the deceased was essential for further investigation and reporting in such an offence, and therefore disclosure of information was necessary.

Deputy Solicitor General Shanthi Bhushan H, representing UIDAI and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, submitted that the person must be alive when the fingerprint is used for identification. He further contended that a fingerprint cannot be used to search the database to identify the corresponding Aadhaar number, nor can an Aadhaar number be used to identify the corresponding fingerprint. Identification is only possible when both are available.

Considering these submissions, Justice Govindaraj dismissed the petition, allowing police to ascertain the identity of the deceased woman through any other means possible. If any Aadhaar card is available, authorities are directed to furnish its usage details.

State to publish final ward map; 369 likely for city

With this, civic election countdown begins for Bengaluru

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government will soon publish the final boundaries for Bengaluru's five municipal corporations, paving the way for the civic body elections.

The total number of wards is expected to be 369, one more than the 368 notified last month. The additional ward has been created in the Bengaluru West City Corporation, bringing its total to 112.

"We received about 4,800 inputs on the draft boundaries. The final notification will be published soon. The government will then begin notifying ward reservations," said Tushar Girinath, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department (UDD).

TUSHAR GIRINATH
Additional Chief Secy, UDD

"We received about 4,800 inputs on the draft boundaries. The final notification will be published soon. The government will then begin notifying ward reservations.

In September, the government set up a four-member delimitation commission, headed by Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao, to draw ward boundaries for all five corporations. By the month end, the commission recommended 368 wards, published in the September 30 draft notification.

The draft distributed the wards as follows: Bengaluru Central (63), East (50), North (72), South (72), and West (111). Based on 2023 data, the average population of a ward in Central, West, North and South is around 40,000, while East, which covers two large assembly constituencies, averages 26,000.

On October 8, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar hinted at adding one more ward to Bengaluru, citing the belief that nine is auspicious as it aligns with 'navagraha' (nine planets).

This is the third time ward boundaries have been modified since the now-dissolved BBMP held elections a decade ago.

In July 2022, the BJP-led government expanded BBMP to 243 wards, up from 198. The Congress government later reduced the number to 225.

In its affidavit to the Supreme Court, the Karnataka government promised to publish the final notification by November 1, but missed the deadline. It also committed to fixing ward reservations by November 30. It remains to be seen if the government will meet this deadline.

Meanwhile, all major parties — Congress, BJP, JD(S), Aam Aadmi Party and Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party — have begun preparing for elections. The reduced ward sizes may open the field for new faces.

Yellow Line frequency to improve to 12 mins in Dec; 6th train on the way

BENGALURU, DHNS

Trains on the Yellow Line will run every 12-13 minutes during peak hours from December as Namma Metro expects to receive the sixth trainset by November-end, officials in the know said.

On November 17, Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL) dispatched the first three coaches of the sixth train, with three more expected to leave its Bengal plant on November 19, a senior official in the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) told *DH*.

The six coaches will complete the 2,000-km road journey in about 10 days and arrive at the Hebbagodi depot by the last week of November.

After arrival and coupling, the trainset will undergo static tests at the depot and dynamic tests on the mainline at night. It is expected to enter passenger service by the third or fourth week of December, improving peak-hour frequency to 12-13 minutes. The BMRCL may also advance the Yellow Line's start time from the current 6 am.

Trains on the 19.15-km RV Road-Bommasandra metro line currently run every 15 minutes during peak hours (8 am to noon and 4 pm to 9 pm), with one spare train kept on standby in the afternoon as a contingency measure.

The three coaches of the sixth trainset were dispatched on Monday. Three more to follow on Wednesday.

TRSL is making two more trainsets, both likely to be dispatched in December.

BMRCL Chief Public Relations Officer BL Yashawanth Chavan said peak-hour frequency would improve to 10 minutes once eight trainsets were inducted.

TRSL is manufacturing trains under a sub-contract with China's CRRC Nanjing Puzhen Co Ltd, which won a Rs 1,578-crore contract to deliver 36 trainsets for Namma Metro.

The Yellow Line opened on August 11 and has pushed daily ridership to over a million, but passengers are unhappy with low frequency and late start time.

On Monday morning, a group of passengers delayed the first train's departure from RV Road by half an hour, demanding an earlier start to operations.

Cabs asked to display 112, KSP app for passenger safety

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police has issued a new safety mandate requiring all cabs in the city to prominently display stickers featuring the emergency number 112 and details of the Karnataka State Police (KSP) mobile app.

The measure, aimed at enhancing public safety, especially for women commuters, was announced on Tuesday by City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh.

The commissioner stressed the importance of visible emergency information for crime prevention and traffic control. "For both traffic control and crime prevention, stickers of the police emergency 112 number and KSP app details, in Kannada and English, should be pasted on both sides of all cabs in the city," he said.

According to the traffic police, over 12,000 cabs have already been identified to comply with the new regulation. Authorities have issued a strict deadline for all vehicles to affix the prescribed stickers.

The template provided by the police department includes a QR code linked to the KSP app, along with the 112 emergency number.

Police explained that the KSP app includes several features for public and women's safety, enabling quick access to police assistance, particularly for anyone travelling in isolated or vulnerable areas.

ಸುಕೋ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್
SUCO BANK
SUCO SOUHARDA SAHAKARI BANK

RECRUITMENT FOR VARIOUS POSTS

SUCO SOUHARDA SAHAKARI BANK Ltd. a leading Co-Operative Bank in Karnataka State having its **Head Office at Ballari** with a network of 29 Branches spread across North Karnataka invites applications for the following positions from the candidates who are meeting the eligibility criteria.

- **Probationary Officers**
- **Chief Information Security Officer**
- **Senior Management Positions**

APPLY ONLINE ON OR BEFORE 30.11.2025

For Details Please visit "Careers" in our Website
www.sucobank.com

G S Ravisudhakar
Managing Director

62-year-old 'mentally unsound' man arrested for BMRCL bomb threat email

BENGALURU, DHNS: Wilson Garden police arrested a man for allegedly sending a threat email to the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), warning that a metro station would be blown up.

The arrested, BS Rajiv, 62, originally from Ballari, stayed in Belathur near Kadugodi.

"The suspect appears to be mentally unsound. The person named in the email was his ex-wife. However, his statements do not tally. He has been referred to Nimhans," Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said.

On November 15, Wilson Garden police registered an FIR after seeking court permission. Earlier, a non-cognisable report was filed based on a complaint by Rathish Thomas, 50, Assistant Executive Engineer (Cybersecurity), BMRCL.

It is alleged that on November 13, at 11.25 pm, the official email of BMRCL received the threat from 'rajivsettyptp@gmail.com'. "If ever I come to know that your metro employees are torturing mentally to my past divorced wife Padmini after duty hours, be careful, one of your metro station gets blasted ... I am also a terrorists liker PATRIOTIC against KANNADIGAS," the email read.

After verification and standard procedures, the threat was declared a hoax. The case was booked under BNS Section 351 (criminal intimidation).

Police said that Rajiv, a diploma holder in printing, was separated from his wife 15 years ago and was cared for by his sister. He had also been a patient at Nimhans. He had a printing press that shut down due to losses. He does not have children and lived alone.

Contrary to the email, his wife did not work at BMRCL.

"He is not a criminal per se. If he intended to cause mischief, he would have used fake email addresses and virtual private networks," police said.

BNP demands rollback of 'flawed' SWM user fee rollout

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) has demanded an immediate rollback of the Solid Waste Management user fee for 2025–26, calling the rollout flawed. It urged the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to reintroduce the fee next year after consulting citizen groups.

In a statement, the party said the current rollout has caused public confusion, double-charging and unfair penalties. BNP asked the government to adjust fees already paid against next year's property tax and waive penalties for non-payment.

"This is not a call to evade civic responsibility. It is a call for fairness, transparency and good governance," BNP said, adding that residents should not be penalised for what it called poor planning and mismanagement by the GBA.

'Reward, not penalise'

BNP governing council member Lalithamba BV said many smaller apartment complexes manage their own waste or hire private vendors. "Instead of imposing charges indiscriminately, GBA should recognise these grassroots efforts by exempting such apartments from additional fees," she said.

'Definition flip-flop'

BNP founder and general secretary Srikanth Narasimhan criticised the government for repeatedly changing the definition of "bulk generator" from 20 units to 50, and now 100. "Smaller apartments are caught in a limbo. Many rely on private vendors for waste management, but under this rule, they face double payment: one to their vendor and another to GBA, for a service GBA does not even provide. This lack of clarity and fairness must be addressed immediately."

'BE A COP FOR THE DAY'

Rajajinagar MLA hits the road; turns traffic cop for three hours

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar on Tuesday swapped his legislator duties for a traffic police vest, taking to the streets as part of the Bengaluru Traffic Police's 'Be a Cop for the Day' initiative.

For nearly three hours, from 9 am to 11.30 am, the MLA personally managed traffic at Bhashyam Circle, gaining firsthand experience of the enforcement challenges faced by the department.

Speaking to *DH*, Kumar described the experience as good and insightful.

He had long wanted to join the BTP initiative after seeing it on social media. He registered through the Astram app and chose his junction after consulting Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy. He recalled a previous manual traffic control stint at night and during the rains at Chalukya Circle and said this exercise helped him realise the challenges faced by the traffic police.

Kumar criticised the traffic culture in the city, stating that while citizens in Singapore consider following rules an "inborn duty", here in Bengaluru, "to violate or break the traffic rules is an inborn right".

He highlighted common violations such as riding without helmets, using phones while driving, triple riding and parking on footpaths. "Many stopped on pedestrian crossings, obstructing walkers, so I advised them not to break the rules," he said.

Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar advises a motorist against stopping on the pedestrian crossing to ensure road safety.

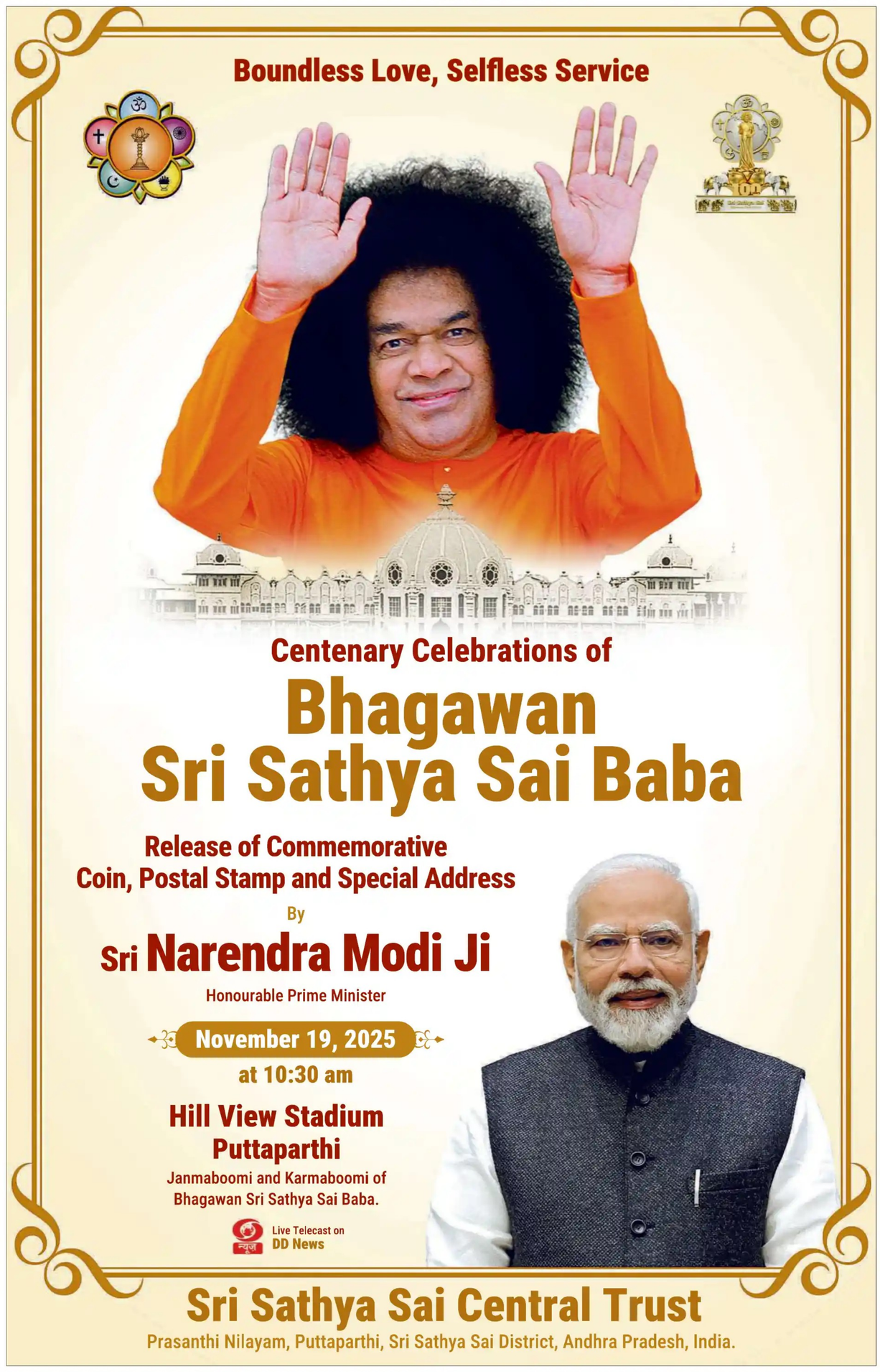
He believes the initiative is a crucial public engagement tool, designed to make citizens understand traffic violations and their repercussions.

Kumar has requested the BTP to permit him and his party workers to engage in traffic control every Monday at eight junctions across the city.

He identified infrastructure issues at Bhashyam Circle, which he will discuss with officials to implement changes soon.

"The yellow markings of the zero-tolerance zone are not visible and the circle's structure needs to change. The pedestrian crossing will be re-structured, as a divider is obstructing it," he added.

The MLA concluded by praising the programme: "This is a good public engagement initiative by the police. Partnerships between the public and authorities should increase, which will solve half the city's problems."



Hyper-local website focused on Malleswaram set for launch

It will document both the tangible and intangible heritage of the neighbourhood

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

The neighbourhood of Malleswaram is set to launch its own website on Sunday. Malleswaram.org will serve as a digital archive and interactive platform showcasing the area's cultural, social, ecological, and architectural legacy. Architect Suchitra Deep, a Malleswaram resident for three decades, is leading the initiative.

She says the hyper-local website aims to preserve both the tangible and intangible heritage of the neighbourhood. It will feature stories not just about buildings but also about its residents, including pourakarmikas, vendors, shopkeepers, and especially women entrepreneurs. "We need to capture the voices of those who have not been heard (before)," she says.

The project is funded by the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) under Project 560, an artistic research initiative documenting Bengaluru's neighbourhoods.

The website, however, has its roots in 2009, when Suchitra began informally recording her observations of the locality. "It started as an architect's interest, and then I began creating an archive focused on traffic and walkability in the area," she says.

Concerned that Malleswaram's sense of community was fading, she formed a group called Malleswaram Social in 2019. Since then, she has organised walks and talks to highlight the locality's history.

Launch on Sunday

To mark the website's launch, a full day of activities, including walks, talks, art sessions, live music, stalls, and community conversations, has been planned on November 23, from 10.30 am to 6.30 pm. While the website will be launched at the Rotary Hall in Malleswaram, events will take place outside and around the venue. All activities are free, except for a talk on the inscription stone located in a passage next to Kadu Malleshwara Temple. Presented by P L Udaya, the talk will be held in two slots, at 8 am and 8.45 am, with 50 seats each.

For details, visit @malleswaram.blr on Instagram.

Suchitra Deep (in white top) seen with a group of participants of an 'Art deco' walk she organises around Malleswaram.

Mental health comes first for young people in relationships

Couples therapy is becoming common among Bengaluru's Gen Z even during the dating phase, counsellors say

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

A recent survey has found that 67% of Gen Z women would call it quits if a relationship were having a negative impact on their mental health. This 'dramatic' shift in perspectives and priorities has emerged as a post-Covid phenomenon, Bengaluru-based therapists and psychologists say.

The survey by Aisle, a dating app, was conducted across metro cities with the largest pool of respondents from Bengaluru (19%). It further found over 50% of participants believe that "therapy talk belongs in dating conversations" and 1 in 3 "have ended or avoided relationships due to mental health concerns".

Mental health literacy

Relationship experts in the city note that much has changed in the last five years with heightened awareness of therapy terms like 'toxic', 'gaslighting', 'red flags' 'boundaries' and 'attachment styles'. "This is a result of the easy access to mental health literature on social media," says Afifa Kauser, counselling psychologist. She explains that older generations prioritised survival, family and socio-economic mobility over emotional compatibility and mental health, whereas younger millennials and Gen Z "are living in an India that is more globalised and liberalised".

Heightened awareness of therapy terms like 'gaslighting', 'boundaries' and 'attachment styles' has helped younger Bengalurean couples recognise problems in their relationship and seek help, therapists say. PIC FOR REPESENTATION/DH FILE PHOTO

Even seven years ago, people were not aware of the term emotional abuse and that it was as harmful as physical abuse, points out Maullika Sharma, counsellor.

Sunil John has been working as a counsellor for over 15 years. He notes that older millennials and other older generations saw relationship problems as "something to just live with or get through". "They never viewed it as a problem that could be solved with therapy, nor did they consider walking away from the relationship if it was draining them mentally," he explains. With the younger generation, the conversation is more about what they can do to improve the relationship.

Dramatic shift

Kala Balasubramanian, a psychotherapist, says the number of unmarried couples signing up for therapy has increased by 30-40% in the last five years. She adds, "This includes couples for whom marriage may or may not be on the horizon." Often, couples who have been in a relationship for a long time seek therapy before making the decision to marry. "They come to us to figure out if getting hitched is the right step for the relationship, problems that could arise, and if their value systems match," she says.

Some of John's clients have got the answers they need and have parted ways amicably after therapy. "They are looking at relationships as something that could enrich their lives in a meaningful way," he states.

Kala shares that some get into an open relationship thinking that is what they want, but one party later figures out that they want exclusivity. "In such cases, it is difficult to resolve because they are attached (to the primary partner) and do not want to abandon the relationship."

Therapy tools

One of Afifa's clients came to her after she started experiencing panic attacks and sleepless nights. Her husband refused to get involved in the care of their child and her. "She would face problems whether she stayed or left," she shares. While the woman is still married, she has moved out of the house she shared with her husband. Therapy helped her recognise the relationship patterns, build her support systems, and become more assertive. However, awareness can also prove to be detrimental in some cases. Another client, while being able to recognise 'gaslighting' and 'red flags' as explained on social media, could not differentiate between these terms and normal conflict in her real life. "As a result, she was struggling in her relationships. So I had to guide her to tell the difference between normal differences and toxic behaviour," she recalls.

Experts share tips to test ghee purity

Cops busted a fake ghee racket recently. The goods were worth Rs 1.26 crore

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Recently, the Central Crime Branch Special Investigation Squad busted an interstate racket of adulterated ghee sold with fake Nandini packaging in Bengaluru. The seized goods were valued at Rs 1.26 crore. According to officials, the ghee was manufactured in Tamil Nadu by mixing coconut oil and palm oil with ghee.

Metrolife spoke to experts about how one can identify pure ghee.

"Pure cow ghee has a rich, nutty aroma that lingers. If it fades quickly or smells oily, it's likely adulterated," says Listy Prabhakar, co-owner of a ghee brand. Cow ghee's natural yellow colour comes from beta-carotene, a pigment in cow's milk. "If it's pale yellow or white, be cautious. But buffalo ghee is usually white," she adds.

Pure ghee is aromatic and grainy, say experts.

Ramaprasad T R, senior principal scientist at the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), points out that most ghee adulteration is "almost impossible to detect without advanced laboratory equipment".

Ramaprasad, who specialises in lipids and ghee, explains that ghee varies widely across regions. "The flavour and aroma heavily depends on what the cows or buffaloes are fed," he says.

Kitchen tests

Shalini Arya, professor of food technology at the Institute of Chemical Technology, says consumers can do a few tests at home to identify ghee's purity.

"Ghee includes saturated and unsaturated fatty acids. If you take a small teaspoon of ghee and refrigerate it for a couple of hours, pure ghee will develop a uniform, grainy, crystalline texture," she explains. This graininess comes from the way saturated fatty acids solidify into crystals.

Most adulteration, she says, happens through palm oil as it has no strong flavour and blends easily. "But it will not form that uniform grainy texture. You will see clear separation between the liquid and solid parts," she says.

Another test is a palm test: When you spread pure ghee across the palm, the graininess remains perceptible. With adulterated versions, especially those containing palm oil, the texture feels greasy and sticky, she adds.

Other oils, including sunflower oil, are also sometimes used to adulterate ghee. "If sunflower oil or dalda is mixed, the butyric acid which gives ghee its aroma and flavour gets diluted — its smell will be faint and flavour muted," she says.

KMF says...

B Shivaswamy, managing director of Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), says Nandini's ghee "has a distinct aroma". He adds that a special committee is reviewing how to "make the artwork on the ghee packets difficult to copy". "We are contemplating introducing individual QR codes, but it will be costly," he adds.

CITY MIX

Summit to focus on youth mentoring

A two-day summit will explore how mentoring can improve youth employability and job retention. Mentoring Summit India, to be held on November 19 and 20 at the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, will feature seven panel discussions and 12 workshops. Panellists will discuss the vision for a national mentoring framework, ways for companies to scale mentoring, methods to measure mentoring outcomes, and the role of artificial intelligence in supporting high-quality mentoring. The second day will highlight Karnataka's efforts to integrate mentoring across more than 500 government colleges. The summit is an initiative of Mentor Together, a Bengaluru-based non-profit working to create mentoring opportunities for young people.

Entry free. For details, visit mentoringsummit.org.

Celebrating Young Birders Month

A festival celebrating birds will be held at the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, on November 22 and 23, 11 am to 7 pm. Titled 'Feather Fest', it will feature performances, films, games, storytelling and poetry sessions, and a talk on birds. Award-winning bird photographs by young photographers and artworks by children depicting India's birdlife will be on display. A bird song imitation challenge is also in store. The fest marks the Young Birders Month.

Entry free. For details and to RSVP, visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org.

NGO seeks volunteers for inclusive hikes

It aims to help persons with disabilities explore the outdoors and build social skills

TEAM METROLIFE

An NGO is looking for volunteers to accompany children and young adults with disabilities on nature trails and hikes around Bengaluru. Called Inclusive Trek, the initiative aims to break stereotypes around disability, and build social skills and confidence among participants.

Each participant is paired with one or two volunteers, depending on whether they have a physical or intellectual disability. Since registrations opened last month, the initiative has received interest from 83 people who want to organise treks, and 145 who want to walk along with participants. These comprise college students, and working professionals under 30.

One or two volunteers are paired with every trekking participant.

The initiative organised eight hikes last year, each drawing an average of 30 participants. This edition began in November and will last until early January next year. "Given the good response last year, we plan to conduct a total of 33 treks for students from 30 schools and for adults training in livelihood programmes at three NGOs. We need more volunteers to support this expansion," says Vishnu Soman, cofounder of The Inclusion Movement.

Participants are taken to two locations. Thimmappana Betta in Ramanagara is a pair of hills rising 823 metres. The Bannerghatta Hills trail in the city begins with a rocky climb, then opens into a forest path and later a pond.

The initiative was initially designed to help participants socialise beyond their circles of parents, teachers, and classmates. But the team soon realised people with disabilities enjoyed simply being outdoors. Soman recalls one participant in his late 20s who uses a wheelchair. "He couldn't sleep for two nights before the trek. He was nervous and excited. When he reached the top, he said he never imagined doing this in his wildest dreams," he adds.

Registrations close on December 21. Write to vishal@theinclusionmovement.org or contact @theinclusionmovement on Instagram.

EVENTS

Indo-Western concert
Sarod Mystics, a band that combines Hindustani classical music with Western rhythms, will perform their latest work on November 22, 6.30 pm, at Artkhoj, J P Nagar. Tickets online.

Musical tribute
Singers Priya Karthik, Aditi Karthik, Aishwarya Kasinathan, Niyazuddin, Aniket Prabhu and Akash T will perform songs featuring dancing legends of Bollywood on November 22, 5.30 pm, at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road. The event is titled 'Bollywood's Dancing Divas'. Tickets online.

Film screening
'Working Girls', a documentary on the often unseen but critical work performed by women, will be screened on November 22, 3.30 pm, at Museum of Art & Photography, Kasturba Road. Directed by Paromita Vohra, the film challenges ideas about labour, value, and visibility. Entry free. Register on map-india.org.

Satirical play
Bangalore Players theatre group will stage their original play 'Lakshmi Kataaksha' on November 22, 7 pm, Kalagrama, Mallathahalli. It is a satirical political drama directed by Kishore Kumar. Tickets online.

Bugs on your plate: Krishi Mela serves up insect menu

The agri fair threw light on alternative sources of food

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

The recently concluded Krishi Mela in Bengaluru offered a glimpse of what the future of food might look like. Spread across a table were a queen termite wedged between burger buns, silkworm pupae floating in soup, and trays of cockroach pakodas and grasshopper kebabs. The unusual menu also featured a mealworm-topped pizza, red ant chutney, and deep-fried crickets.

The exhibit, presented by the department of entomology, College of Agriculture, UAS, GKVK, elicited more "disgust" than curiosity. Harshini N, MSc student and one of the three presenters, says, "People walked past saying things like 'India is heading the China way'. They were especially put off by the cockroach pakodas," she shares.

Visitors look through an array of insect-based dishes displayed at Krishi Mela 2025. (Right) A barbecue platter featuring queen termites.

Only a few were intrigued enough to ask for a serving of silkworm pupal manchurian, and mealworm cake. The display, however, was meant purely to raise awareness about alternative food sources, not for tasting.

Over a decade ago, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recognised insects as an untapped nutritional resource that could help tackle growing food insecurity. And insect eating — entomophagy — is more widespread than most assume. In India alone, over 300 insect species are consumed by tribal communities across 10 states, according to a presentation by Bengaluru's Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (Atree).

Closer home, Jemla Naik D, entomology department head of UAS, GKVK, notes that red ant chutney is popular in Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, and Hassan. "Flying termites are in high demand during the rains in Kolar and Doddaballapura, while queen termites are sought year-round for their nutritional value," he says. As the world's population grows, insects offer a nutritious substitute for non-vegetarians, he adds.

Atree itself has been distributing cricket-infused choco chips, and chilli garlic crickets at events since 2018. "People love the chilli garlic crickets. It tastes like chilli prawns," says Atree entomologist Priyadarsanan Dharma Rajan.

At Bagalur-based Farmlore, chef and cofounder Johnson Ebenezer has been serving red ants as part of a tasting menu for "people who come with open minds". He starts with 'ant bite', a rice crisp tart layered with a chutney of red ants, burnt onions, tomatoes, and chillies. He offers a sorbet topped with fried ants as a palate cleanser. He collects these ants from the mango tree, which, he says, lends a natural astringency. He suspects that ants harvested from mulberry trees might offer a sweeter note.

Policy hurdles

According to Rajan, countries like Singapore, Taiwan, and those in the European Union have made policy changes to promote entomophagy, and today, cricket powder is in high demand as a protein supplement. "However, India's Biodiversity Act has a list of species that can be traded legally, and most edible insects aren't on it. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India also has no norms for selling insects as packaged foods."

Yet the biggest hurdle may be perception. Even the UAS, GKVK students who prepared the dishes sampled only a few themselves. "I tried silkworm manchurian. It tasted just like gobhi manchurian. The red ant chutney was sour," says Harshini.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Dr. Natasha Sagar

29 JUNE 1989 – 18 NOVEMBER 2025

Granddaughter of the Late. R. Dayananda Sagar & Dr. Chandramma Sagar
Daughter of Dr D. Hemachandra Sagar & Mrs. Geetha H Sagar

With deep love and profound sadness, we share the passing of **Dr. Natasha Sagar,** who left us on **18 November 2025**.
Dr. Natasha lived her 36 years with a radiant spirit and an unwavering zest for life. Ambitious, funny, and endlessly generous, she had a way of making every space lighter and every person she met feel seen and valued.

Dr. Natasha Sagar was a devoted daughter, a cherished sister, and a doting aunt whose laughter and warmth were the heart of her family. Her presence brought joy, steadiness, and humour in equal measure. She approached life with curiosity, compassion, and a quiet strength that inspired those around her. A dedicated professional and a deeply caring human being, Natasha touched countless lives - not only through her work, but through her simple everyday kindness. Her ability to lift others, to listen without judgement, and to celebrate life's small moments will be remembered always.

Qualified as a lawyer, Dr. Natasha specialised in digital and mental health laws in India. Her passion for addressing the mental health crisis led her to establish **The Happiness Project**, enhancing accessibility to mental health support throughout India. She was also the recipient of prestigious accolades, including Entrepreneur Today's 40 Under 40 and Fortune India's 100 Most Dynamic Personalities, to name a few.

She was a decorated athlete who represented India in the Asian Grand Prix and held 18 national medals and 2 national records. Dr. Natasha Sagar will also be remembered as the beloved Joint Secretary of Dayananda Sagar Institutions. She leaves behind a loving family and many friends whose lives are forever enriched by having known her. While her time with us feels far too short, her love, her light, and her laughter remain with us, guiding and comforting in the days ahead.

The family requests that those who wish to honour her memory do so through acts of kindness - something she believed in deeply and practised effortlessly. May her spirit remain a blessing to all who knew and loved her.

Dayananda Sagar Institutions

Dayananda Sagar University

Dr. Chandramma Dayananda Sagar Institute of Medical Education and Research

Sagar Chandramma Hospitals

Sagar Hospitals

Spl court summons BSY, 3 others in POCSO case

BENGALURU, DHNS

A special court on Tuesday ordered summons to former chief minister B S Yediyurappa and others in connection with a case under the POCSO Act. The case pertains to a FIR registered in 2024.

The fresh summons issued by the special court has ordered Yediyurappa and others to appear on December 2.

Ex-CM B S Yediyurappa

"Further, as per Section 35 of POCSO Act, the evidence of a child shall be recorded within a period of 30 days of taking cognizance, hence the court can proceed with the matter and issue an order for early appearance of accused persons. No prejudice will be caused to the accused persons, if the matter is posted for their early appearance. Accordingly, the office is hereby directed to issue summons to accused No.1 to 4 (Yediyurappa and others). Call on 02.12.2025." the court said.

The complaint was filed by the survivor's mother, who died on May 26, 2024, during the pendency of the case.

The chargesheet filed by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) stated that the woman and her minor daughter, aged 17 years, had gone to Yediyurappa's house on February 2, 2024 seeking help in getting justice in an earlier sexual assault against the minor daughter. It is alleged that Yediyurappa had taken the minor girl to a room and molested her.

Yediyurappa and other accused in the case; Aruna Y M, Rudresha Marulasiddaiah and Mariswamy G, had challenged the trial court order taking cognizance of the offences and issuance of summons.

The high court had dismissed their petition on November 13

Lab reports confirm blackbucks died due to bacterial infection

Surviving blackbucks also infected, responding to treatment

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Lab reports on Tuesday confirmed that the 31 blackbucks Rani Channamma Mini Zoo in Belagavi died due to Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS), a bacterial disease.

Speaking to *DH*, Member Secretary, Zoo Authority of Karnataka, Sunil Punwar said that the viscera of the animals which died on November 13 were sent to Bengaluru lab and they have confirmed that the deaths of blackbucks were due to HS.

He said HS is a highly contagious and deadly disease affecting herbivores. The zoo officials are still investigating on the means through which the blackbucks could have contracted the infection that impacts the breathing and causes high fever among cattle. If not treated, the infection could result in the death of animal within 8-12 hours.

Sunil confirmed that seven other surviving blackbucks were also infected by HS and are recovering and responding positively to treatment.

"In the last 36 hours, the zoo has not reported any casualty of animals. However, we are still not out of the woods, as the medical staff and the officials are closely monitoring the health of not just the seven blackbucks, but all 191 animals at the zoo."

"If there was any foul-play like supplying of infected fodder to zoo then even other herbivorous should have been impacted, which is not the case here. There is no widespread HS infection in the surrounding areas of zoo. So, we are unable to pinpoint the exact reason for the deaths," he said.

Belagavi Chief Conservator of forests (CCF) Manjunath Chavan said disinfectants are being sprayed in the enclosures of the blackbucks and surrounding ones. Experts suspect that blackbucks, highly sensitive animals, could have contracted the infection due to sudden change in weather condition.

National Animal Disease Referral Expert System (NADRES), a unit of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology & Disease Informatics (NIVEDI), Bengaluru, in its September "vet alert" had issued a warning of possible outbreak of the HS in Belagavi region based on earlier year data and sudden fall in temperature. But that warning was provided to the animal husbandry department.

Baldev Raj Gulati, director of NIVEDI, told *DH* that his institute provides regular update on possible disease attack among cattle and they had issued alert to animal husbandry department on possible spread of HS in Belagavi due to prevailing weather condition. He categorically denied issuing any such warning to forest department.

Belagavi ACF Nagaraj Balehosur said usually they get such alerts of HS spread during January. "We did not receive any warning from animal husbandry department for November. There was one alert, however, that was for January 2026."

Chavan ruled out negligence of medical staff. He said same set of doctors & staff are providing care to animals for the last three years and no such incident was reported earlier.

After 10 yrs of wait, forest dept to get wildlife vet cadre

BENGALURU, DHNS

In the wake of back-to-back tragedy of wildlife deaths, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has given in-principle approval for the forest department's long-pending proposal to create a separate cadre of wildlife veterinarians, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre stated on Tuesday.

Khandre held a video conference with the heads of nine zoos after the toll of blackbucks dying due to haemorrhagic septicemia, a bacterial infection, in Belagavi zoo reached 31. The deaths in the zoo followed several incidents of wildlife conflicts, including deaths of tigers, tiger cubs, in Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts.

"The chief minister has given in-principle approval to create a separate cadre and appoint 15 wildlife veterinarians," Khandre said in a statement.

It can be recalled that *DH* had on October 30 reported on the forest department and the state government sitting on a proposal for separate cadres for more than 10 years. During the time, the number of man-animal conflicts had increased progressively, putting pressure on the department which lacked expertise even as its resources were stretched thin.

Khandre also ordered officials to investigate how bacterial infection spread and claimed so many lives in the Belagavi zoo to ensure such incidents do not recur. He suggested officials come up with a standard operating procedure on handling such infections.

Besides the death of blackbucks, the minister ordered an audit into the death of a gaur in Bannerghatta Biological Park. He said the department has received complaints alleging that the gaur was killed due to mistakes made while administering a drug.

DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/ 98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Teachers/ Professors

JOB VACANCY at DG Renewable Energy. Marketing Officer (1 Position) Sales Executive (2 Positions) Only male candidate. Two wheeler must. Location: Horamavu, Bangalore-560043. Contact: 9481827127

RV UNIVERSITY — WALK-IN INTERVIEW At RV University, Bengaluru

Join RV University - Shape Tomorrow's Leaders!
RV University, a premier private institution offering UG/PG in Commerce, Computer Sciences Engineering, Design, Management, Liberal Arts, Economics, Law, Film & Allied Healthcare Professions, invites applications for

TELECALLERS (Multiple Posts)

Eligibility: 12th Pass / Graduate, 0-5 yrs exp, Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English. Knowledge of Kannada & Hindi would be an advantage. Attractive compensation of Rs. 22,000-25000 PM + incentives.

Bring: Updated Resume, Photo ID (Aadhaar / PAN), Educational Certificates, Experience Letters (if any), 2 Passport size Photos to receive OFFER ON THE SPOT

Date: 22nd Nov 2025, Saturday | 28th Nov 2025, Friday 5th Dec 2025, Friday ; Time: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Venue: RV University Campus, RV Vidyaniketan Post, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560059. Adjacent to Pattangere Metro Station.

Walk-In & Secure Your Future!

SILICON CITY COLLEGE AUTONOMOUS (A Unit of MJ Education Trust) Approved by AICTE, New Delhi
Autonomous Re-Accredited By NAAC with 'A' Grade
#26/2 Ravindra Layout, K R Puram, Bengaluru 560036, Karnataka.
PH: 81470 93466, 81470 93467
Email: chairman@siliconcitycollege.ac.in, www.siliconcitycollege.ac.in
Empowerment Through Knowledge
Walk-in-Interview
Faculty Positions: Professor / Associate Professor Assistant Professor in Computer Science
Office Admin, Front Office Executives & Admission Counsellors
Candidates may attend walk-in-interview along with their testimonials, resume and recent photograph and present a demo on 22nd November 2025 and 23rd November 2025 from 10 AM to 3 PM.

WANTED
Administrator and Computer Science Lecturer
For a CBSE / State Board Educational Institution Qualification: Retired persons with relevant experience in similar institutions. Location: South / Central Bangalore
Contact: bhavanbangalorepressschool@gmail.com

COMPETENT CBSE maths teacher needed, capable of teaching 8th, 9th and 10th classes,for a school near Uppala, kasaragod district, Kerala.(30 kms from mangalore) Call 8921908624

Marketing & Sales

UNCLE'S WANTED Immediately BUSINESS EXECUTIVES. Smart Promotional SALES GIRLS/ BOYS. Best Salary. Walk-in Everyday 10am: 99000-54461/62

FUTURE KIDS PUBLICATIONS PVT LTD
Publisher & Distributors of Educational Children Books required
SR. SALES OFFICER and SALES OFFICER
Minimum 1 to 5 Year Exp. in Sales / Marketing
Salary - Rs. 25k onwords +ESI+PF+Bonus+ +Conveyance + Incentive + Vehicle Maintenance
at No.381/29, 65th Cross, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-10.
Mobile No: 9986167032
080-23145345
fkvkbooks@gmail.com

WANTED MANAGERS, Sales Executives, Telecallers to work different parts of Bangalore earn 20,000-30,000: 8867627879

Placement Bureaus/Consultants

ALL HIRING & Placements needs, Contact ANZ Consultants, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru. Call: 8183046799, 08023443555, Email: anzconsultants@yahoo.co.in

Accounts & Finance

WANTED EXPERIENCED Accounts Assistant with Tally, GST, Computer Knowledge. Reply mundhralighting@gmail.com 9986033339

Engg/ Production Technical

REQUIRE: PURCHASE Engineers with Electrical, Mechanical Or equivalent with minimum experience, Senior Marketing Executive for our special pumps Manufacturing Unit at Bangalore. Email: flowoilpumps@hotmail.com

REAL ESTATE BUYING

General

General

WANTED INDUSTRIES Runing or closed in Private or KIADB/ KSSIDC 10Guntas to 4Acres Bangalore Urban/ Rural. Wanted Residential/ Commercial from 4000 to 20000sft, and Agricultural Land 2 to 10Acres and above. Verna Developers, Barton Center, MG Road, Blr. 9620253180.

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology- 9880916988

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Industrial & Factory

Tumkur Road

SALE INDUSTRIAL, Warehouse, Commercial, Agriculture Land. 2.5/ 4/ 9.5/ 20 Acres around Nelamangala. 9141326819, 9035334418

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Accommodation Available

Commercial

COMMERCIAL SPACE For Rent 1600sqft, First Floor, ITI Layout Main Road, Sector-7, HSR, Prime Location, Contact Owner: 9343594249 8217449006

BUSINESS

Business Offers

Finance

MSME LOANS Available for any startups companies And Existing Running companies Available for Manufacturing Units, Shops, Establishments Etc Contact- 7204995189

EDUCATIONAL

Coaching Classes

AN EDUCATIONAL trust (Malleswaram),requires M.Sc. Physics/Maths with Computer skills and good typing speed.Send Biodata to:forumforedu@gmail.com

AUTOMOTIVE

Four Wheelers Selling

Maruti

MARUTI IGNIS available for immediate sale. Automatic (2018) 52000 km. Strictly no brokers only genuine buyers. Contact 8870347278.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that our client **Mr. S. Victor,** S/o late M. Susainathan, residing at No. 30, Serpentine Street, Richmond Town, Bangalore-560025, has misplaced the original Exchange Deed bearing No. BAS-1-31036-2006-2007, Book-1, stored in CD No. BASD317, registered on 28/03/2007, registered before the Senior Sub registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, in respect of the vacant residential property bearing No. 14, comprised in No. 10/5, situated at Tavarekere Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. In this regard he has already filed a complaint before the KSP Portal (E-lost) on 18/11/2025.
If anyone has come into possession of the said document, the same may informed or handed over to him at the address stated above or to the undersigned.
M. Arun Ponappa,
Advocate, 2nd Floor, Kasturi Complex, No.76,Mission Road,Bangalore-560 027.
M: +91 98440 43021

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHOBHA LALGE SHYAM** alias **BHANGALE SHOBHA** Residing at # 63, Srikantapura, Anchepalya, Tumkur Road, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru Rural -560073 have changed my name to **SHOBHA L.S.** vide affidavit dated 12/11/2025, before notary R. Basavaraja, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **SHOBHA L.S.** only.

I, HEMA CHIDANANDACHAR CHALUVACHARY, Residing at No.07,1st Floor, Lakshmi Residency,100 Feet Road, Narayana Nagara,3rd Block,Doddakallasandra, konanakunte Post, Bengaluru-560062. Have Changed my Name HEMA CHIDANANDACHAR CHALUVACHARY to HEMA CHIDANANDACHAR CHALUVACHAR vide affidavit Dated:18.11.2025 before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

ASTRO YATRA

INDIA'S FAMOUS KERALA ASTRO-NUMERO-PALMIST
G.K.D. DIVYADASAN (GURUJI)
Staying in Bangalore from last 35 years permanently. Contact for accurate prediction and Solution for all problems in Kerala Pooja method . To solve your all kind of problems health, business, love, family dispute, marriage education, children, foreign tour, husband and wife relationship, property dispute and all personal problem etc. Your personal details will be kept secret.
Contact Office: G. K. D. Divyadasan (Guruji)
Mob.: 98441 65272 / 90365 52207
Residence : Gurukrupa Nilaya,No. 24, 1st Cross, KEB Office Road, Near City Super Market, Kullappa Circle, Kammanahalli, Bangalore-560084.
Timings: 10 am to 1 pm & 3 pm to 8 pm

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru

Amoebic infection: Visitors to Kerala advised to be cautious

BENGALURU, DHNS: As Kerala reports an increasing number of cases of Amoebic meningoencephalitis, a disease caused by Naegleria fowleri, a self-sustaining amoeba, the Health Department has advised pilgrims travelling to the neighbouring state to exercise caution during their visit.

In an advisory issued on Tuesday, the department noted that Amoebic meningoencephalitis is a rare and nearly fatal brain infection caused by the amoeba Naegleria fowleri.

The organism is believed to be breeding in certain water bodies, particularly stagnant water and mud. While it is not contagious and does not spread from person to person or through consumption of contaminated water, it can enter the human body through the nose and subsequently reach the brain, it said.

The department has advised visitors to use nose clips or keep their noses tightly closed while bathing in water bodies during their visit to Kerala. Travellers have also been urged to seek immediate medical attention at the nearest hospital if they experience symptoms such as fever, unbearable headache, vomiting, neck stiffness, changes in mental state, or behavioural disturbances within seven days of their visit.

Man killed in wild jumbo attack

HANUR/GUNDLUPET (CHAMARAJANAGAR DIST), **DHNS:** An 80-year-old man died in a wild jumbo attack and a motorcyclist had a narrow escape, in two separate incidents, in Chamarajanagar district, on Tuesday.

Kethegowda (80) of Gombegallu tribal hamlet, under Biligiri Ranganatha Swamy Tiger Reserve, is the deceased. He was on his way to his village, when a wild jumbo suddenly attacked him. While he died on the spot, Kolla, who was accompanying, him escaped from the attack. The Forest department personnel visited the spot.

In another incident, a motorcyclist had a close shave, when a wild jumbo tried to attack him on Moolehole-Wayanad route, under Bandipur Tiger Reserve forest area, in Gundlupet taluk, on Tuesday. He jumped from the bike and ran to safety. The video clip recorded by one of the passengers in a car nearby has been widely circulated on social media platforms.

ELEPHANTINE TASK

The forest department personnel rescue a jumbo that had fallen into the canal of a private power generation plant near Shivanasamudra in Malavalli taluk of Mandya district on Tuesday. The elephant was lifted out of the canal and placed on to a stretcher using cranes. More than 100 staffers, including veterinarians, took part in the operation.

South B'luru to house city's 2nd airport: DKS

Airport, From Page 1

Shivakumar also announced that the government will build an international complex to house global business houses in the city apart from building a world-class AI city spread over 9,000 acres near Bidadi.

Explaining new policies, Siddaramaiah said with the Space Tech policy 2025-2030, the government aims to position Karnataka as the country's leading space technology hub, capturing 50% of the national market and 5% globally by 2034.

Though more details of the Startup Policy will be revealed at the Future Makers Conclave at the BTS on November 20, the CM mentioned that the policy aims to enable the creation of 25,000 startups over the next five years through strategic interventions in funding, market access, infrastructure talent development and social inclusion.

Under the Space Technology policy, Karnataka aims to hold 50% of the national market share - $22 billion market by 2033. As part of this, a space technology cell will be set up under Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS).

Under the new IT policy 2025-2030, the government targets to achieve generation of over 90 lakh direct and indirect jobs before 2030. Currently, the state accounts for 43.67% of the nation's total software exports.

"Karnataka is home to over 16,000 startups and the state accounts for nearly 47% of the country's total startup funding. Karnataka contributes 42% of India's IT exports, valued at over Rs 3.2 lakh crore, growing at a rapid 27% year-on-year," he said, adding the state hosts over 550 Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

Shivakumar said 60 nations are participating in the event. "Over 1,200 exhibitors, 15,000 delegates, and more than 10,000 startups are attending the BTS event," he said.

The CM also launched the KEO (Knowledge-driven, Economical, Open-source), an AI-ready personal computer designed and developed in the state for Rs 18,999.

HM says Qatari firm willing to fully fund Tumakuru metro

'Tejasvi Surya appears to be unaware of ground realities'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Three companies based in West Asia have expressed willingness to fully fund the Bengaluru-Tumakuru metro line under a public-private partnership (PPP) model, Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters here, the Tumakuru district incharge minister reacted sharply to Bangalore South MP L S Tejasvi Surya's opposition to the 59.6-km metro line planned between northern Bengaluru's Madavara and Tumakuru.

On November 16, BMRCL floated tenders for preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the line, estimated to cost Rs 20,896 crore with 27 stations.

The Madavara-Nelamangala section will have stations spaced 1-2 km apart, while the stretch from Nelamangala to Tumakuru may get a station every 4-5 km.

Citing a *DH* report, Surya had noted on Monday that the metro was not the right option to connect Tumakuru and Bengaluru and called it "an urban planning nightmare". He suggested a suburban railway line instead.

Parameshwara did not take lightly to Surya's criticism and said he seemed "unaware of ground realities".

"Thousands of people travel between Tumakuru and Bengaluru every day. Areas like Nelamangala, Dobbspet and Kyathasandra are growing rapidly. Bengaluru is under immense pressure—there are water and electricity shortages—so people are choosing to live in these areas".

"Many industrial parks, including a Japanese township, are being set up in Tumakuru. When growth is happening so fast, shouldn't we ensure good connectivity? With road, metro and rail links, the pressure on Bengaluru will reduce. Developing Ramanagara, Kolar and Tumakuru will ease Bengaluru's burden," he said.

Parameshwara said two to three companies from West Asia had come forward to invest under the PPP model. A Qatar-based company has officially written to the chief minister expressing willingness to invest Rs 20,000 crore in the metro project, he added.

"With so much progress made, it is unclear why Tejasvi Surya has spoken (against the project). I will speak to him. This is not a matter of conflict. We must think from the standpoint of the state's development," he said.

Govt to submit new DPR on Mekedatu to water commission

Aims to provide 4.75 tmcft drinking water to Bengaluru

BENGALLURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said on Tuesday that the state government would prepare a new Detailed Project Report (DPR) on the Mekedatu project and submit it to the Central Water Commission (CWC).

"We have just reviewed the (Supreme) Court's decision. We will open an office at the chief engineer (CE) level at Ramanagara in Bengaluru South district. It was pending for the last 4–5 years. We will take it forward. So, we will prepare a new plan of action on this and will submit it to the CWC," Shivakumar told reporters after a high-level meeting with officials on implementing the Mekedatu project.

The meeting comes days after the Supreme Court's ruling that set aside Tamil Nadu's petition against the Mekedatu project.

The DPR was rejected earlier, the deputy chief minister said, adding that applications will be submitted again to the Union government.

"We have to provide details of the quantity of forest area that gets submerged. We have decided to build a specific office; there is already a small office at Harobele. We have decided to open an office at the CE level in Ramanagara, since it will be close to both Mandya and Ramanagara," he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar take part in a meeting on Mekedatu drinking water project in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

The Mekedatu initiative is a pet project of Shivakumar, and the Congress had conducted a padayatra on the issue when the BJP was in power.

The project aims to supply 4.75 tmcft of drinking water to Bengaluru and surrounding areas and will also generate 400 MW of hydroelectric power.

For this, Karnataka plans to construct a concrete gravity dam at Mekedatu with a storage capacity of 67.16 tmcft. Alongside water and power supply, the state also hopes to bolster its tourism sector through the project.

'Harmony beneficial'

Former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said Karnataka's legal battle on the Mekedatu issue will benefit if the state seeks the Union government's approval with "trust" and "harmony."

He noted that "bringing politics" into the matter or making it a "matter of political prestige" would harm Karnataka's interests.

Bommai claimed the project would have reached an advanced stage by now if the Congress had not undertaken its padayatra.

Stating that Tamil Nadu would not withdraw its case, the former chief minister cautioned the state government to complete every stage "very intelligently."

Sargam 2025 pays tribute to courage, sacrifices of defence forces

Hind Ke Veer: Highlight of Sargam 2025's competitive spirit

New Horizon College of Engineering, New Horizon College - Marathahalli, New Horizon College - Kasturinagar and New Horizon Pre-university College were brought together at Sargam 2025 that transformed the institutions into a vibrant celebration of national pride, creativity and cultural excellence. This year's theme of the two-day national-level cultural fest was 'Operation Sindoor', paying homage to the courage, discipline and sacrifices of the Indian Army.

Chief guest Col P Rajnarayan with guest of honour Capt K C P Reddy inaugurated Sargam 2025 in the presence of New Horizon Educational Institution's chairman Dr Mohan Manghnani and president Dhermesh Manghnani, and New Horizon International School's vice chairperson Kirthi Manghnani.

Sargam 2025 had over 4,000 students from more than 350 colleges across India, once again establishing itself as one of Bengaluru's largest youth cultural gatherings. The festival blended patriotism with artistic expression. Over 20 meticulously-curated events, all centred around the theme Operation Sindoor, ensured every performance, competition and showcase celebrated the essence of sacrifice, unity and national pride. From artistic displays to expressive performances, the campus brimmed with colour and enthusiasm throughout the fest. This edition also marked a landmark moment with a live concert by Sunidhi Chauhan.

The spirit of competition remained strong with colleges demonstrating exceptional talent. The mega event 'Hind Ke Veer', the highlight of Sargam's competitive spirit, saw outstanding performances across two categories, with Jain University, Jayanagar and BMS College of Engineering emerging winners and runners-up in Category I, and New Horizon College, Kasturinagar, winning in Category 2. Jain University, Jayanagar, was declared the Overall Champion and received the coveted trophy.

Sargam 2025 extended beyond being a cultural fest. This year, it was also a tribute to India's defence forces. From the decor to the pre-event build-up, every element was infused with patriotic symbolism, discipline and respect. Student volunteers, dressed in army-inspired motifs, ensured seamless coordination, contributing to an ambience that was both spirited and solemn.

The fest's continued emphasis on holistic development was evident not only in the scale of the event but also in the inclusivity and creativity it championed. From planning to execution, students took the lead, supported by the institution's commitment to offering platforms that nurture confidence, collaboration and self-expression.

DH New Horizon College

Curated by DH Brandspot

Housing: Don't reject loans over CIBIL score, govt tells banks

CS asks them to sanction loans within one month

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Siddaramaiah administration has asked banks not to reject home loan applications under government schemes, citing low CIBIL scores, a hurdle that has hit beneficiaries in the affordable housing segment.

The Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd (CIBIL) score is a summary of a consumer's credit history based on past credit behaviour, such as borrowing and repayment habits shared regularly by banks and lenders.

"No application should be rejected because of a low CIBIL score," Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh said at a recent State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meeting, as recorded in the minutes.

She further asked banks to sanction loans "within one month of receiving applications".

Time and again, the government, through SLBC, has been raising housing loans, which fall under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) priority sector lending.

According to the minutes of the meeting, the chief secretary said the cost of constructing one house is approximately Rs 5 lakh.

"The Government of India and the Government of Karnataka together provide Rs 2.5–3 lakh subsidy, leaving a gap of Rs 2 lakh. Due to this gap, over the last decade, several lakh houses remain incomplete, with beneficiaries unable to mobilise further resources," she said.

"Beneficiaries are already scrutinised and sanctioned through Gram Sabha/committee approvals. Hence, delays on procedural grounds are unjustified," banks were told.

The government has asked the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Ltd (RGHCL) and the Housing Department to prepare district-wise, taluk-wise and gram panchayat-wise 'line lists' of pending housing loan applications.

At the recent SLBC meeting, Additional Chief Secretary-cum-Development Commissioner Uma Mahadevan also reiterated that CIBIL score should not be a criterion for rejection of loan applications under government housing schemes.

"However, the RBI clarified that credit history is to be checked only to ensure the applicant is not a defaulter. It cannot be the sole ground for rejection," she said, as per the minutes.

Under the annual credit plan (ACP), banks have a target of lending housing loans worth Rs 11,678 crore in Karnataka in 2025-26. The total outstanding housing loan amount in the state is Rs 52,529 crore.

In 2020, the previous BJP government had asked banks not to reject crop loan applications, citing creditworthiness scores, especially by CIBIL.

The government is deploying a new "end-to-end software" to map housing loan applications and monitor pendency.

SC recalls judgment, decks seem to be cleared for Vijayapura airport

NEW DELHI, DHNS

With the Supreme Court on Tuesday recalling its May 16, 2025, judgment that had prohibited the Centre from granting retrospective environmental clearances (ECs) to projects in violation of norms, decks seemed to have been cleared for the greenfield airport in Vijayapura of the state.

A bench of Chief Justice B R Gavai, Justices K Vinod Chandran and Ujjal Bhuyan by a majority of 2:1 allowed the review applications against the previous judgment.

The Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation, the nodal agency for the airport, among others filed the applications for review in the court.

Seeking recall of the judgment, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, with advocate Nishanth Patil for Karnataka, gave the example of a greenfield Airport at Vijayapura.

The counsel submitted that the construction of the entire airport was completed. But, on account of the judgment, the entire airport will have to be demolished.

Having considered the matter, all three judges rendered three separate judgments.

The CJI and Justice Chandran recalled the previous judgment. Justice Bhuyan, however, gave a dissenting opinion.

The CJI said, if the judgment is permitted to operate, rather than protecting the environment, it would result in creating even more pollution.

"I say so because if such large number of buildings/projects which have been completed or are near completion are demolished and they could be reconstructed shortly thereafter after obtaining EC as they were otherwise permissible; it would result in nothing but creating more pollution which could not have been the intention of the judgement," he wrote.

The CJI said, the judgment will result in demolition of various buildings/projects, AIIMS medical college and hospital in Odisha, greenfield airport in Vijayapura and common effluent treatment plants, constructed out of public exchequer to the tune of nearly Rs 20,000 crore.

Justice Chandran concurred with the opinion of the CJI and found the review to be not only warranted, but imperative and expedient.

Justice Bhuyan, who was a part of the judgment under review delivered by Justice Abhay S Oka (since retired), disagreed, saying the principle of non-regression prohibited the state from reversing or weakening the existing standards of environmental protection in the country.

"It is unfortunate that a false narrative is being created pitting environment against development. It is a completely untenable binary in as much as ecology and development are not adversaries. Both are part of the constitutional construct of sustainable development," he wrote. In its previous judgment, the court had declared the concept of ex post facto or retrospective environmental clearance is completely alien to environmental jurisprudence and the environmental impact assessment notification.

It had held that the 2017 notification and the 2021 office memorandum as well as all circulars, orders and notifications issued for giving effect to these notifications are illegal.

JD(S) may appoint new state chief at nat'l executive meet

BENGALURU, DHNS

Speculation is rife about the possibility of Nikhil Kumaraswamy being appointed the president of the Karnataka JD(S) at the party's national executive meeting scheduled on November 21 and 22 in Bengaluru.

Nikhil Kumaraswamy

A senior JD(S) leader told *DH*, "The party will announce the president of the Karnataka unit of the JD(S) on November 22. Union Minister and former Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy is currently heading the party's state unit, but it was ad hoc arrangement necessitated by the expulsion of former president C M Ibrahim from the party."

The senior party leader expressed dismay over the fact that few in the JD(S) had volunteered to head the party's core committee. "Who else is there? Nikhil has proved that he can shoulder the responsibility. During the recent state-wide tour that he both planned and participated in, he interacted with a number of party cadre working at the grassroots," the senior leader added.

Capability and not seniority would be the deciding factor in the selection of the next president of Karnataka JD(S), said another party leader. "Nikhil has a vision for the party, and it's time someone young was appointed to head the Karnataka unit of the JD(S)," he added.

Meanwhile, the mood in the JD(S) is understandably upbeat given that the party is slated to commemorate its 25th anniversary. Setting the significance of the event in perspective, JD(S) leader Krishna Reddy said, "It's not easy for a regional party to stay relevant for 25 years. But former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda has been successful in leading the party from the front. We will celebrate this milestone on November 22."

The former PM is set to flag off the commemorative event on the second day of the national executive committee meeting, Reddy told journalists in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

JD(S) floor leader in the Assembly C B Suresh Babu said that the party would take out a massive rally to mark its Silver Jubilee in January.

'Can't remove BYV as state BJP chief after just 2 yrs'

BENGALURU, DHNS

BJP MLA from Yelahanka S R Vishwanath reaffirmed his support to BJP state chief B Y Vijayendra on Tuesday, even as he said that the central leadership would take the final call on his continuation in the post or not.

"We don't have an alternative for the state president's post. As a youngster, if he (Vijayendra) is removed in just two years, it amounts to denying him an opportunity. So, our national leaders will decide on this and we will work with the party," Vishwanath told reporters.

Vijayendra, who took over as the state president in November 2023, has completed 2 years in office. Vishwanath is seen as close to Vijayendra.

Noting that all state party leaders should unite and work with Vijayendra, the MLA said: "Responsibilities have still not been given delegated. District presidents have been appointed, but other office bearers have not been finalised. All this will be done after the (new) state president is appointed. If full-fledged organising work begins, the state president's hands will be strengthened".

Vishwanath said all state presidents in the party were usually given a three-year term, adding that the incumbent must be allowed to finish his three-year term.

On the upcoming Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) polls, Vishwanath said it was mandatory to "win Bengaluru" to "win Karnataka" (2028 Assembly elections).

Free laptops for SC/ST students at VTU colleges

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) will distribute free laptops to SC/ST students in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at its constituent colleges and the central campus.

This step is being taken to encourage admissions at the constituent colleges.

According to the details available from the university, 700 students have been identified as eligible to get free laptops. For the supply of laptops, the university has invited tenders.

The laptops will be distributed to the students once the procurement process is completed.

Students in undergraduate and postgraduate courses at UBDTCE colleges in Davangere, Muddenahalli, Belagavi, Mysuru, Kalaburagi and Talakal will receive laptops.

CM's wife shifted to ward after clinical improvement

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife B M Parvathi was shifted from the intensive care unit (ICU) to a general ward at Apollo Hospitals in Seshadripuram on Tuesday, following significant clinical improvement.

Parvathi was admitted on Monday with acute breathing difficulty and transferred to the ICU after being diagnosed with left ventricular dysfunction and pulmonary edema.

She was successfully managed with diuretics, non-invasive ventilation (NIV), and cardiac supportive medications under the care of senior consultant Dr B C Srinivas.

Parvathi's condition is now stable and continues to be monitored.

While she was in the ICU, a host of Congress leaders visited the hospital with Arsikere MLA K M Shivalinge Gowda confirming that she was stable after meeting CM's son Yathindra.

Baby falls to ground during delivery in dist hosp corridor, dies

HAVERI, DHNS: A newborn died as it fell to the ground soon after delivery in the corridor of the women and children wing of the district hospital here on Tuesday morning, since no beds were available in the labour room.

At around 9 am, the mother - Roopa Girish Karabannanavar (30) from Kakol in Ranebennur taluk - was brought to the Haveri district hospital with severe labour pain. The labour room was overcrowded and there were no beds available, forcing her to sit on the floor outside the ward.

According to the family, despite repeated requests, neither the doctors nor nurses made arrangements for a bed. The woman's relatives said the nurses were busy talking on the phone and did not attend to the patient.

Roopa stood up to walk towards the restroom when she suddenly went into labour in the corridor.

On the way to the restroom, she delivered the baby and it fell to the ground, sustaining serious head injuries. The newborn died on the spot, relatives said. "This tragedy occurred solely because doctors and nurses failed to respond despite her severe labour pain," they said.

District Hospital surgeon P R Havanur said the woman had high BP. She was given treatment, he said.

"Our doctors examined her and she mentioned that there had been no movement of the baby since the previous night. The baby may have died in the womb. As she was heading to the restroom, the woman experienced labour pain. Our nurse brought her back and checked her," he clarified.

"An inquiry has been ordered. We will investigate and take strict action against those responsible," Havanur said.

Bengaluru scientists win inaugural Tata Transformation Prize

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major triumph for the city's scientific ecosystem, two premier institutions --- the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) --- have swept the inaugural Tata Transformation Prize.

The winners, selected from a pool of 212 nominations nationwide, were announced on Tuesday by the New York Academy of Sciences and Tata Sons.

Each will receive Rs 2 crore to scale up their high-impact research across food security, sustainability and healthcare.

The food security prize was awarded to Dr Padubidri V Shivaprasad of NCBS.

His work addresses India's critical challenge of feeding a growing population amid climate stress.

Dr Shivaprasad employs sophisticated epigenetic engineering and small RNA–based modifications to enhance the stress tolerance and nutritional quality of rice.

This method offers a rapid and precise alternative to conventional breeding, promising reduced dependence on fertilisers and lower production costs for farmers.

The remaining two awards went to researchers at IISc namely Dr Balasubramanian Gopal and Dr Ambarish Ghosh. Dr Balasubramanian Gopal secured the sustainability prize for his work in green chemistry. He has pioneered a sustainable biomanufacturing platform using bioengineered E.coli bacteria, integrated with artificial intelligence, to produce key chemicals for pharmaceuticals and agriculture.

Dr Padubidri V Shivaprasad

Dr Ambarish Ghosh

Dr Balasubramanian Gopal

This innovation offers a cleaner, cost-effective replacement for traditional, energy-intensive chemical synthesis, positioning India as a leader in environmentally responsible manufacturing.

The healthcare prize was awarded to Dr Ambarish Ghosh for his revolutionary approach to cancer treatment.

Dr Ghosh is developing magnetic nanorobots — tiny, helical devices that can be safely guided through the body using magnetic fields.

These nanorobots are designed for precise, targeted drug delivery to tumours, promising less invasive therapies with significantly fewer side effects, potentially transforming cancer care accessibility in low- and middle-income countries.

N Chandrasekaran, chairman of Tata Sons, emphasised the national significance of these innovations.

"Their work is significant for India and for humanity at large," he said.

Nicholas B Dirks, president and CEO of The New York Academy of Sciences, said the winners "exemplify the power of Indian science to drive meaningful global change". The recipients will be honoured at a ceremony in Mumbai in December.

Three youths die of 'asphyxiation' in Belagavi

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Three youths died, while the condition of one is critical, reportedly due to asphyxiation at their room in Aman Nagar in the city on Tuesday.

The deceased have been identified as Reihan Matta (22), Mohin Nalaband (23), and Sarfaraz Harappanhalli (22). Shahnavaz (19), who was found unconscious, is being treated at a government hospital.

Police said that the four youths had attended a function on Monday afternoon and had returned to the room in the night. As it was very cold, the youths lit a charcoal-based stove (shegadi) in order to keep the room warm. The police also suspect that the youths might have put three to four mosquito coils in the stove.

As the room had no windows or ventilators and the only door was tightly closed from inside, the smoke from the stove could have choked them to death. The incident came to light only on Tuesday evening when the parents of these youths started looking for them. When they broke open the door they found the three youths dead and one struggling to breathe.

Bidar woman dies in Saudi

BIDAR, DHNS: An eighty-year old woman from Bidar is among the Indian Umrah pilgrims who lost their lives in a tragic bus inferno in Saudi Arabia on Monday. The woman is identified as Rahmatbi of Mailur CMC colony here. Deputy Commissioner Shilpa Sharma has confirmed the report.

A total of 45 people, most of them from Hyderabad, were killed in the accident. A bus carrying pilgrims had caught fire after colliding with a tanker lorry carrying diesel.

K'taka's smaller cities struggling to provide sanitation services

Municipalities not collecting sewage service charge

BENGALURU, DHNS

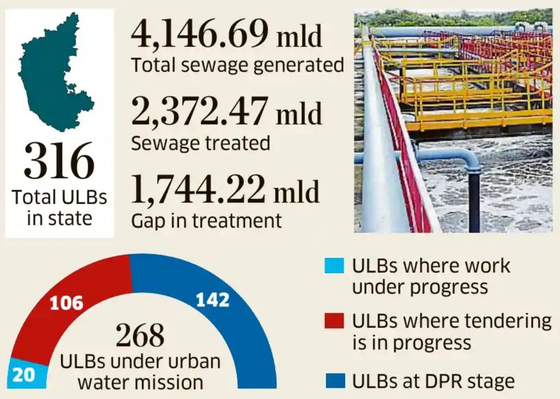
Karnataka's tier-2 and tier-3 cities are growing but struggling to comply with the waste management rules, thanks to lack of resources and instruments to maintain a burgeoning infrastructure for supplying water, treating sewage and other allied works.

Making a presentation on the state of affairs, Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board (KUWSDB) chief engineer U Nalinakshi said the Board was working to provide drinking water and sewage treatment infrastructure, including underground drainage and treatment plants (STPs) for 315 urban local bodies excluding Bengaluru city.

Lack of sewage treatment has emerged as a major threat to public health in tier-2 and tier-3 cities which continue to grow. The Karnataka Economic Survey 2024-25 had stated it had become a challenge to provide safe drinking water and sanitation to such cities due to the "inordinate" growth of the urban population.

Nalinakshi said the Board has taken up the challenge seriously. "We have set up 114 STPs of 802 mld capacity and are working to build 38 more with a capacity to treat 270 mld. The Board has proposed another 95 plants of 330 mld capacity," she said, adding that unlike previously, now plants are set up along UGD connection to channel the waste water.

In numbers



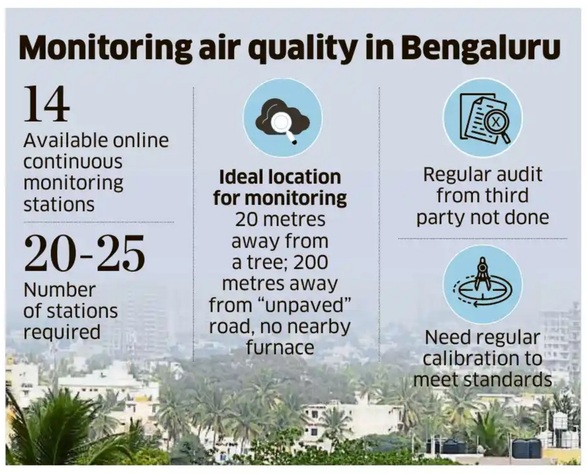
Two hurdles

The ULBs are, however, facing two hurdles. First, there is opposition by people to set up a STP with the official stating that they face resistance from nearby households to even to set up a UGD manhole/machine hole.

She stressed the need for long-term planning in tier-2 and tier-3 cities to reserve areas for treatment.

The second is the lack of funds to maintain the sewage treatment infrastructure. "Municipalities do not come forward to take over the maintenance of such infrastructure. This is because, unlike in Bengaluru, these local bodies are not collecting sewage service charges. As a result, they lack the funds," she said.

An official from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board said the government has to either allow the local bodies to collect fees or incentivise them to run the show.


Monitoring air quality in Bengaluru
14
Available online continuous monitoring stations
20-25
Number of stations required
Ideal location for monitoring
20 metres away from a tree; 200 metres away from "unpaved" road, no nearby furnace
Regular audit from third party not done
Need regular calibration to meet standards

B'luru requires 25 air quality monitoring stations: Expert

BENGALURU, DHNS

Air quality monitoring in Bengaluru has to comply with the standards specified by the Central Pollution Control Boards - from increasing the number of monitoring stations to the strategic location of the stations to arrive at accurate picture of air quality in different micro environment.

Meteorologist and professor at National Institute of Advanced Studies Gufran Beig, who spoke about the Real-time Environmental Quality Monitoring Systems, noted that the air quality data was as good as the number of stations and their locations. He said officials have to read the guidelines for setting up the stations carefully.

"The guideline says, stations should be 200 metres away from unpaved roads but in some cities, they are installed 200 metres away from any road. This will only lead to underestimation of the data," he said, noting that questions were raised in Delhi for setting up stations inside a garden.

In a city, stations should be located in different micro environments. The air quality in densely populated areas, residential, industrial and suburban places should be measured to understand the overall ambient air quality.

"In a city like Bengaluru, we require 20 to 25 stations. These should be set up in strategic places and work as a network to give a picture of the air quality," he said.

The professor noted that forecasting of air quality has to be done at the local level to provide more reliable information to the people.

He said real-time transmission of air quality data will help track pollution events, issue alerts and make timely decisions.

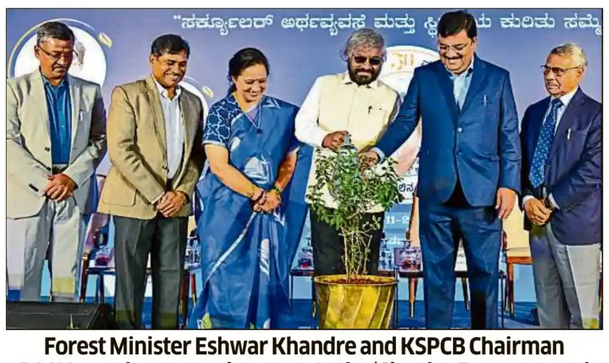
KSPCB promises circular economy, experts seek better vigilance

BENGALURU, DHNS

On a day the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) promised to act as a facilitator in ushering in a circular economy as part of its golden jubilee celebrations, academics and experts called for a thorough review of policies, such as the Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) policy and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) norms.

They stressed that environmental conservation — and not just industrial growth — must remain at the core of this transition.

KSPCB Chairman P M Narendraswamy, in his keynote address, said Karnataka is uniquely positioned to lead the shift to green manufacturing and support a circular economy, which was previously estimated to generate Rs 1,063 crore annually.



Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre and KSPCB Chairman P M Narendraswamy inaugurate the 'Circular Economy and Sustainability' conference organised as part of the KSPCB's golden jubilee in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, Forest Department Principal Secretary Srinivasalu, Commerce and Industries Department Principal Secretary Selvakumar and Justice Subhash Adi are seen.

Speaking soon after, IIM Bangalore Professor Rajeev R Tripathi observed that the ESG policy — introduced under the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR) framework — is not designed to monitor an industry's environmental impact.

"Instead, the policy seeks to evaluate a company's financial risk exposure to environmental, social and governance factors," he said.

Tripathi urged the government to "bring ESG out of the mirage." Currently, around 600 frameworks are used for ESG ranking, with little parity among them, resulting in significant confusion. "For instance, a company rated very highly by one agency could be rated poorly by another," he pointed out.

He said IIMB was developing its own index based on BRSR documents, aiming for a model of growth driven by conscience rather than mere compliance.

A KSPCB official highlighted the plastic recycling scam reported in Karnataka and other states to emphasise the need for stronger enforcement of EPR rules.

"EPR certificates were generated and issued for recycling thousands of tonnes of plastic by a company that was not even operational. Without scrutiny, the EPR policy can be misused to paint a misleading picture," he said.

Al-Falah Group chairman held...

ED, From Page 1

The ED registered a case of money laundering based on two FIRs filed by Delhi police's Crime Branch, accusing the university for making "fraudulent and misleading" claims of having accreditation by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and recognition from the UGC with an "oblique motive to cheat" the public.

According to ED officials, Siddiqui is the managing trustee and he effectively controlled the institutions under the Al-Falah Trust. It said the group has seen a "meteoric rise" since the 1990s. However, the ED said, the rise is not backed by adequate financials and investigations have claimed that large amounts of proceeds of crime have been generated.

Investigations have collected evidence about "diversion" of crores of rupees by the trust to family-owned entities, citing examples of giving contracts for construction and catering to Siddiqui's wife and children.

Multiple shell companies of the group have been identified, the officials said.

"Exhaustive evidence, including recovery of cash from trustees' diversion of funds to family concern, layering of funds etc, clearly establish the pattern of generation and layering of proceeds of crime," they said.

Officials said they were examining details of at least nine shell companies registered at a single address and linked to the group.

Investigators claim that these companies exhibit shell-company like peculiarities, including no physical presence, no meaningful activities at declared places of business and common mobile number and email across various companies and accounts.

The EPFO/ESIC filings of the trust and other entities are inconsistent with reported scale of operations and overlapping of directors/signatories and weak KYC trails across entities, the officials claimed.

Instances of minimal salary disbursal through banking channels, absence of HR records, synchronised incorporation patterns and common contact coordinates across firms have been detected, they claimed.

Top Maoist commander ...

Encounter, From Page 1

During the encounter, Madvi Hidma, also known as Santosh, was eliminated along with his wife and armed guards.

Andhra Pradesh Intelligence chief Mahesh Chandra Laddha explained that state police had maintained continuous surveillance along inter-state borders following credible intelligence that Maoist cadres, under sustained pressure in Chhattisgarh, were planning to relocate into Andhra Pradesh.

"Over the past few days, specific inputs indicated that senior Maoist leaders had entered Andhra Pradesh to revive organisational activities. Acting swiftly on this intelligence, security forces launched a targeted operation early this morning. During the ensuing exchange of fire, six Maoists were neutralised," Laddha said.

"According to preliminary identification, Madvi Hidma, Central Committee Member, First Battalion Commander, and one of the country's most wanted Maoist leaders, is among the deceased. His wife Raje, along with four armed cadres attached to Hidma, were also found at the site," he added. The bodies have been shifted for post-mortem examination as per standard procedure.

In continuation of their surveillance efforts, police teams simultaneously conducted operations across Vijayawada, NTR district, Krishna district, Kakinada district and other areas, leading to the arrest of 31 persons linked to Maoist networks.

The arrests were carried out in Penamaluru AutoNagar of Vijayawada.

Of those arrested, nine were identified as members of the protection team of Tippiri Tirupati alias Devji, the newly appointed general secretary of CPI Maoist.

The remaining arrested belonged to battalions of the South Bastar Zonal Committee led by Hidma. All were attempting to take shelter in Andhra Pradesh to regroup and revive Maoist activities. A huge weapons dump has also been recovered from the arrested naxal cadres.

Laddha noted that some Maoists fled the encounter location and combing operations are currently underway.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
NCC Directorate (NCC Cell)
No.8, Cunningham Road Bengaluru - 560 052.

No.JP/NCE/252/e-Tendering/ AMI, SMI & Boat Keeper/2025-26 Dated: 18.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited for Manpower Services on Outsourcing basis for vacant posts of 06 X AMI, 02 X SMI, and 03 X Boatkeeper in NCC Department in KPPP portal.

Tender details are available on the website **kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp** from 18/11/2025 and last date for submission of tenders through KPPP portal is 26/11/2025.

Tender No: NCC/2025-26/SE0008

Sd/- Mallinath, Administrative Officer
for Deputy Director General NCC

DIPR/CP/3876/AKAR/2025-26

KARNATAKA REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
K-No:1/14, 2nd Floor, Silver Jubilee Block, Unity Building,
CSI Compound, 3rd Cross, Mission Road, Bengaluru-560027,
Tel: 080-22249798/799, E-mail: rerakar.secy@gmail.com

NO: KRERA/2025-26/SE0003/Call-2, Date: 17.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement)

The detailed notification inviting applications from the reputed company/agencies having experience for providing Commercial Passenger Vehicles (Cars), Diesel/ Petrol of Swift Dezire/Toyota ETIOS or equivalent capacity in all respect as desired by the KRERA on hire basis for a period of One (01) Year. Interested Bidders may download bidding documents through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Secretary
Karnataka Real Estate, Regulatory Authority

DIPR/CP/3880/NR/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.
Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979 &Endst. No.MCI-37(1)(Recog.-18)(UG)/2017-Med./109629,Dt: 06/05/2019
DIRECTOR: 8147796529 PRINCIPAL :8147796527
CAO:8147796526PA : 8147796539.
e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcballari@gmail.com, website : https://vims.karnataka.gov.inprincipalbmcrcballari@gmail.com

No:BMCRC/GNL-3/36FC-52/TEND/16/2025-26
Date:15.11.2025

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders is invited from the eligible bidders for Construction of Compound Wall to New Ladies Hostel at BMCRC,Ballari under Two bid system through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inof Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested bidders are request to submit the proposal in prescribed format in above said e-portal on or before 28.11.2025up to 5.00 PM.The total approximate cost of tender is Rs.51.90 Lakhs. Further details may be obtained in the above said website and www.bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/667/KSMCA/2025-26

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
e-Mail: helpdesk@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in
No.: BMRCL/HR/0021/PRJ/2025 Date: 18.11.2025

NOTIFICATION FOR CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

BMRCL invites applications from qualified and experienced officers (serving or retired) from Metro Rail Companies / CPSU's / PSU's/ Government departments for appointment to the following Post in the Project Wing. The appointment will be on Contract basis.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts
1	Asst. Manager (Right to Information, Public Grievance & Admin)	01
	Total	**01**

Last date for receipt of online applications is **08.12.2025** and for receipt of signed application with supporting documents is **12.12.2025, 4.00 p.m.** For details regarding eligibility criteria, salary, application process and other details, please visit BMRCL website: **www.bmrc.co.in/Career Section**

Sd/-
Dy. General Manager (HR)

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 560100.
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: ka.konappanaagrahara.tmc@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಪು.ಕಾ.ಕೋ/ಆ.ಶಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಪಿ.ಆರ್/4/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18-11-2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಕಸ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಆಟೋ ಟಿಪ್ಪರ್ ವಾಹನ ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಇಂಡೆಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **DMA/2025-26/IND5377** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ. 60.04 ಲಕ್ಷ** ಮತ್ತು 2 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಟ್ರಾಕ್ಟರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೈವರ್ ಸೇರಿ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **DMA/2025-26/SE6194** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ. 37.96 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳನ್ನು** ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **25-11-2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 17.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **26-11-2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 17.28 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಯಾವುದೇ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಮುಂದೂಡಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು, ಯಾವುದೇ ವಾರ್ತಾ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/3878/ಆಡ್ಡರ್ಸ್/2025-26

Hubli-Dharwad Urban Development Authority, Navanagar, Hubli
Ref No : HDUDA/e-Auction/01/2025-26/3924
Date : 17 /11/2025

e-Auction Notification

e-Auction of Corner Sites and Stray Sites in prestigious Layouts Developed by HDUDA

1) Date of Opening of e-auction and commencement of registration for e-auction **19-11-2025** after 4:00 pm IST
2) Last Date of Registration for e-bidding is **08-12-2025** @ 4:00 pm IST
3) Date of opening for e-Auction and Commencement of live bidding starts on **09-12-2025** @ 11:00 am IST
4) Last Date and time for closing e-Auction **11-12-2025** @ 4:00 pm IST (5 Minutes of Delta time)

For additional conditions, rules and information visit Web site https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
(Shakir Sanadi)
Chairman
Hubli-Dharwad Urban Development Authority, Navanagar, Hubli

Sd/-
(Dr.Santhoshkumar Biradar) KAS
Commissioner
Hubli-Dharwad Urban Development Authority, Navanagar, Hubli

DIPR/Dharwad/KSMCA/888/2025-26

Tumakuru City Corporation, Tumakuru
Website: www.tumakurucity.mrc.gov.in
Phone No:2278480, Fax: 2275106 e-mail : itstaff_ulb_tumkur@yahoo.com Grievance: 0816-2272200, 2271200
No:TCC/Engineer Section/Civil/CR/17/2025-26
DATED: 13.11.2025

Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Tumakuru City Corporation, Tumakuru invites tenders as per the KTPP act 1999-2000 through KPPP portal for Corporation Grant and Amruth 2.0 Grant Sl No 1 to 5 work 15 Days, Sl No 6 work 7 Days for tenders Eligible Contractors with PWD License certificate can Participate in the Tender. Contractors can download and submit the tenders through KPPP portal http/kppp.karnataka.gov.in Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:
1. Date of reciept of Tenders : 14-11-2025. 2. Last Date for Submission of Tenders : 28-11-2025 at 4.30 pm. 3. Pre-Bid Meeting : 18-11-2025 at 11.30 am. 4. Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : 29-11-2025 at 4.35 am. 5. Date of Opening of Tenders (Financial Bids) : 01-12-2025 at 10.30 am. Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only Through KPPP portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Tumakur City Corporation Tumakuru
DIPR/TUM/337/KSMCA/2025-26

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Kempegowda Bus Station Division, Bengaluru.

No: KST/KBS/COM/727/2025-26 Date:14.11.2025

E-Tender/Negotiation Notification No:09/2025-26

Applications are invited from interested parties through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPP Portal) from **18.11.2025 to 08.12.2025** for selection of licensees for vacant/ to be vacant general stalls no.26, 44, 48, 118, 123, Telephone Booth (Terminal-2), 02 (Terminal-3) at Kempegowda Bus Station, Stall No.27 & 29 at Mysuru Road Bus Station. And also applications are invited through negotiation for Stall No.07 (New Stall, T-1), 05 (New Stall, T-3) 46, 114, Car & Two wheeler parking(Terminal-3 entrance left and right side vacant space & Back side and beside the Indira Canteen at T-3) at Kempegowda Bus Station, Stall No.03 (New Stall, Open Space), 06, 11, 12, 11&12, 13, 30 & 31 at Mysuru Road Bus Station, Bengaluru and lower ground floor, upper ground floor, second floor and Overall total bus station as a Single Developer at Peenya Sri Basaweshwara Bus Station, Bengaluru. Tender documents can be downloaded at KPP Portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and can be viewed on the KSRTC website **ksrtc.karnataka.gov.in**. For more information please visit Division Office, Kemegowda Bus Station Division, KSRTC, Bengaluru-560 009 and Contact Nos. 7760990554, 7760990557, KPP Portal helpline 9240214000/ 9240214001, support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/-
Sr. Divisional Controller,
KBS Division, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3881/MAA/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.: SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/JE-1/F-393(4)/24-25/3606-11 Date: 18.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(O)/C-S/EE(O)/AEE-4/JE-1/24-25/EPR-82/Call-4 Dated: 01.02.2025 for **"Design, manufacturing testing and supply of 14 Nos. of 66KV Class Potential Transformers (0.2 Accuracy), 31.5KA rating of ratio 66KV/√3/110V/√3-110V/√3-110V/√3 (with Marshalling Boxes and without Mounting Structures) conforming to KPTCL Technical Specifications F.O.R.D at stores/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading for the use at various sub-stations coming under transmission (Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL, Bengaluru".**
The Bids will be received through E Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 19.11.2025.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Ele., Tr (Op) Circle-South, KPTCL, Office Complex, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009

Terror has no justification: Jaishankar at SCO summit

Asserts India's right to defend its people against terrorism

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has the right to defend its people from terrorism and will exercise it, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said at a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Moscow on Tuesday, with his counterpart in Pakistan, Ishaq Dar, also attending the conclave.

"We must never forget that the SCO was founded to combat the three evils of terrorism, separatism, and extremism," Jaishankar said. "These threats have become even more serious in the years that have passed."

This was Jaishankar's first address to a plurilateral conclave after the blast near Red Fort. But, unlike the April 22 carnage in Pahalgam, New Delhi did not officially blame it on Pakistan.

"The world must display zero tolerance towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," the external affairs minister said. "There can be no justification, no looking away, and no whitewashing. As India has demonstrated, we have the right to defend our people against terrorism and will exercise it."

Jaishankar represented India at the annual meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government on Tuesday.

"As the organisation continues to evolve, India strongly supports its reform-oriented agenda. We welcome centres addressing challenges such as organised crime, drug trafficking, and cybersecurity threats," the minister said. "As the organisation becomes more diverse, the SCO must be more flexible and adaptable," Jaishankar said.

He said that the global economic situation was going through uncertainty and volatility currently, as the supply-side risks had been aggravated by demand-side complexities.

"There is consequently an urgent need to de-risk and diversify. This is best done by as many of us forging the widest possible economic links. For that to happen, it is essential that this process be fair, transparent, and equitable," he said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. PTI

Fresh videos expose plot behind Red Fort suicide attack

Umar was allegedly preparing terror strike for December

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Security personnel escort alleged car blast accused Jasir Bilal Wani at Patiala House Court, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. The court sent him to 10 days' NIA custody. AFP

The Red Fort suicide blast probe has uncovered a chilling portrait of a radicalised young doctor who left behind videos justifying suicide attacks and was allegedly preparing a major terror strike for next month.

Dr Umar-un-Nabi, the 28-year-old Pulwama doctor who drove the explosive-laden Hyundai i20 that blew up outside Red Fort, killing at least 15 people, had recorded multiple videos justifying suicide bombings, officials said.

The phone—retrieved from a waterbody—has become the centrepiece of the probe. Forensic experts have reportedly extracted data, uncovering ISIS and Al-Qaeda propaganda, radical sermons, and videos of Umar defending suicide attacks.

Investigators say Umar's radicalisation deepened after a 2021 trip to Turkey with co-accused Dr Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie, a faculty member at Al-Falah University, where the two allegedly met Jaish-e-Mohammed overground workers. This marked the beginning of a covert radical network involving doctors, students and professionals—one that police now believe was preparing for 'Hamas-style' attacks in urban centres.

The trail began in mid-October, when JeM posters surfaced in Nowgam. Subsequent arrests of three locals led police to Maulvi Irfan Ahmad, a former paramedic-turned-Imam.

Officials now believe Umar was planning a high-intensity VBIED strike around December 6, the anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition.

A crucial lead surfaced when Zahoor Illahi disclosed that his borther, Umar, had returned to Kashmir between October 26 and 29. Before leaving, he handed over his phone and told his brother to "dump it in water" if his name ever appeared in the news.

With multiple agency teams on the ground, officials say the picture that is emerging is not of a lone wolf but of a trained, ideologically driven medical professional who headed a educated cell preparing for mass-casualty attacks.

3 detained in Mumbai

▸ **MUMBAI, DHNS:** As the police and security agencies widened the investigations into the Red Fort blast in New Delhi, three persons have been detained in Mumbai.

However, the Mumbai Police has refrained from commenting on the matter. All three are said to be highly educated and come from well-established families. The agencies are probing their link with the group involved in the Delhi blast.

Advisory to TV channels

▸ **NEW DELHI, PTI:** The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Tuesday issued an advisory to all private television channels against telecasting visuals that could aid, abet or promote unlawful activities. The advisory comes in the wake of certain television channels carrying content on making explosives in the aftermath of the recent blast near the Red Fort that left several people dead.

Leaders seek accountability over Nowgam blast

SRINAGAR, DHNS: The devastating Friday night blast inside Nowgam Police Station—which killed nine people and injured nearly 30—has triggered a wave of political unease in Kashmir, with leaders openly questioning how such a massive quantity of explosives was allowed inside a police facility and why basic safety protocols appear to have been ignored.

As the probe into the "white-collar terror module" widens, several political leaders say the circumstances surrounding the explosion have raised more questions than answers.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the government "owes citizens clear answers," hinting at possible procedural lapses behind the tragedy. "So many people have lost their lives... How did this happen? Why did this happen? People deserve answers," he said, stressing that the presence of civilians and untrained staff in the blast zone points to "serious gaps that cannot be brushed aside."

The chief minister urged authorities to explain how a large quantity of explosive material "entered, stayed, and was handled" inside the premises.

What has deepened public suspicion is the fact that such sensitive material was dealt with inside a regular police station rather than a secure facility equipped for unstable chemicals.

People's Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti said the incident "should never have happened" and implied that the team handling the material lacked necessary expertise.

National Conference MP Aga Ruhullah also struck a note of suspicion, insisting that an in-depth investigation must identify "the lapses" that led to the blast. "A proper investigation should be carried out... Those responsible must be made accountable," he said after meeting the injured.

'Should we monitor handkerchief use too?' SC bins PIL

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to entertain a plea seeking a ban on non-biodegradable lawyer bands, saying that such matters were beyond its remit.

The petitioner, Sakshi Vijay — who identified herself as the wife of a lawyer — said she discovered a pile of discarded lawyer bands during Deepavali cleaning and found them to be non-biodegradable.

She urged the court to regulate the cloth accessories on environmental grounds. The bench, however, was unconvinced.

"Tomorrow, can we also start monitoring how a handkerchief is going to be used and reused? How far can a constitutional court go in monitoring all this," the judges asked.

Bullet train's inaugural run to cover 100 km in 2027: Govt

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday said that India's first bullet train will now cover a 100 km distance between Surat and Vapi in Gujarat during its inaugural run in August 2027.

"The bullet train, in its inaugural run, will now cover 100 km between Surat and Vapi in August 2027," Vaishnaw told reporters here. Earlier, the inaugural run was planned on a 50 km stretch between Surat and Billimora within the same deadline.

The country's first 508-km-long high-speed rail corridor is being constructed between Sabarmati (Ahmedabad) and Mumbai to operate a bullet train at 320 kmph, covering the entire distance in 2 hours and 17 minutes.

Its foundation stone was laid in 2017, and the entire project was initially proposed to be ready by December 2023. However, land acquisition and other issues delayed the ambitious project.

"The bullet train will cover the distance between Mumbai and Ahmedabad in 1 hour 58 minutes while stopping at four stations. However, if it stops at all 12 stations, the entire distance will be covered in 2 hours and 17 minutes," he added.

Speaking about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the upcoming Surat station, Vaishnaw said, "The PM said that whatever we have learnt from the project must be used elsewhere, not only in railways and other high-speed projects, but in other different sectors as well."

Guj: Key accused behind international cyber-slavery racket arrested

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

'GHOST' UNMASKED

- Accused behind trafficking over 500 people
- Lured victims from social media platforms
- Upon reaching, victims were taken hostage, forced into cyber crimes
- Accused earned Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 3.7 lakh per person

The Gujarat police on Tuesday said it has arrested the key accused behind a major international human trafficking and cyber crime network being run by the Chinese mafia from Myanmar and Cambodia.

Police said the accused was alone behind the trafficking of over 500 people from various countries, including India, in the past many years.

"The cyber centre of excellence (CCE) has exposed a massive international human trafficking and cybercrime network operated by Chinese cyber mafias from Myanmar's KK Park and Cambodia, who were recruiting Indian youth for the Cyber Slavery scam. The key agent-operation, Nilesh Purohit alias Neel, also known as 'The Ghost,' has been arrested," Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi said.

Police said that using technical analysis, the team tracked Purohit, who was attempting to flee to Malaysia, from Gandhinagar. His two main associates, sub-agent Hitesh Somaiya and Sonal Phaldu, were also arrested.

Police said he had sent over 500 individuals through Dubai to Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand for cyber slavery.

The racket used to lure individuals by offering them high-paying data entry jobs through social media platforms. "They would seize the passports of victims, take them hostage and transport them across borders through Moe River to Chinese hubs in Myanmar," police said.

The victims were forced into cyber crimes such as phishing, crypto scams, Ponzi schemes, and fraud through dating apps. They were subjected to physical and mental harassment in case of resistance.

TTD scraps offline tokens for Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan

TIRUPATI, PTI: The TTD Trust Board on Tuesday decided to scrap offline tokens for the Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan in the Tirupati temple from December 30 to January 8 and make it an online process completely.

The decision comes in the wake of a stampede that claimed six lives and injured 40 others after devotees jostled for offline tickets during the festival last year.

"Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan planned for eight lakh devotees during the 10 days. Priority to common devotees. Out of 182 hours available for the darshan, over 164 hours will be allotted to common devotees. No issuance of offline token," said a press release from the temple body.

To give priority to common devotees, Rs 300 special entry darshan and Srivani darshan stand cancelled on December 30, 31 and January 01 (2026).

The fall of Bastar's elusive Maoist leader

Madvi Hidma's killing marks turning point in fight against red terror

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

HIDMA'S ATTACKS

- 2010, Dantewada: 76 CRPF personnel killed
- 2013, Jhiram Ghati: Congress convoy attacked, 27 killed
- 2017, Burkapal: 25 CRPF personnel killed
- 2021, Sukma-Bijapur: Ambush involved over 400 Maoist fighters, 22 security personnel killed

Known for his mastery of guerrilla warfare, Madvi Hidma — neutralised by security forces on Tuesday — had long stood out as one of the most feared and tactically astute leaders of the outlawed CPI (Maoist). From an impoverished tribal youth in Bastar, he rose to command Battalion 1 of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA), among the Maoists' most lethal and disciplined combat units.

His elimination marks a significant setback for the Maoist movement, depriving it of a leader who provided critical direction to its combat wing. The 55-year-old had narrowly escaped capture in January during a massive anti-Naxal operation in south Bastar's Pujari-Kanker area, where 18 Maoists were killed.

Operating across Sukma, Dantewada and Bijapur districts of Chhattisgarh, Hidma's battalion was notorious for its firepower: nearly 80% of its fighters carried automatic or semi-automatic rifles—AK-series weapons, self-loading rifles, and light machine guns—making it a formidable force in Bastar's jungles. His stature was such that he moved under a three-tier security ring. Beyond leading Battalion 1, he sat on the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee and was among the youngest inducted into the CPI (Maoist) Central Committee.

Born in Puvarti, a small village in Sukma district, Hidma belonged to the Muriya tribal community. Locals estimate that nearly half of Puvarti's 100-odd households have at least one member associated with the Maoists. "Being a tribal himself, and coming from central India's jungle belt, Hidma had a natural connect with the cadres," a senior intelligence officer told *DH*. "He was among the very few tribals to hold a top leadership role, as most senior Maoist leaders traditionally came from the plains."

Hidma was known for curiosity and a hunger to learn. Through a college lecturer allied with the Maoists, he picked up basic English and Hindi, foreign to his Gondi-speaking roots. Though he studied only till Class 7, his grasp of tactics stood out. By 2000, he was overseeing the Maoist weapons manufacturing unit, supervising local production and repair of firearms, grenades and rocket launchers.

Between 2001 and 2007, he served in the PLGA's South Bastar platoon. The rise of the Salwa Judum vigilante campaign during this period radicalised him further. Alleged human rights violations by Salwa Judum fuelled resentment among tribals — a sentiment the Maoists exploited to rebuild their strength. For Hidma, this backlash transformed him from a committed foot soldier into one of the movement's most battle-hardened leaders.

Unlike many senior Maoists who were eliminated or surrendered, Hidma evaded capture for decades. His deep knowledge of terrain, dialects and social networks gave him a near-mythic advantage in Bastar's forests. Among local youth, he was revered not merely as a militant but as a tribal son standing up to state power.

With his killing, security forces have severed a crucial link between the Maoist top brass and its ground-level cadres.

ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಚಿತ್ತಾಪೂರ ರೋಡ್, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ – 585202.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ: 08473–253736 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: dcydr@ksp.gov.in

ಸಂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹ/22/ಸಿಟಿಆರ್ಎಸ್/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.11.2025.

:: ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ :

ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆವಿರುವ VARIABLE MESSAGING SIGNAGE BOARDಗಳನ್ನು ಆಳವಡಿಸಲು ಅಧೀಕೃತ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ (ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ) ಯವರಿಂದ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯ (KTPP Act) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿವರಗಳು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಜಾಲತಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: Tender No. KSP/2025-26/IND0407 2) ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.11.2025. 3) ಟೆಂಡರಗೆ ಸಂಬಧಿಸಿದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.11.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5:30pm ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 4) ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು, ಟೆಂಡರಅನ್ನು E-Procurment portal ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.11.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5:30pm ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ತೆರೆಯುನ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.11.2025 TIME:11:00 AM 6) ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.12.2025 TIME:11:00 AM 7) ಟೆಂಡರನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.: 62,25,000/– 8) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ.1,24,000/– 9) ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತು ಪಡಿಸಿ: Superintendent of Police, Yadgir. Ph: 08473-253736

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/396/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಪಿ.ಎ/2025–26 ಸಹಿ/– ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 Telephone No.: 080-29557023 E-mail:cekhsdrp@gmail.com
No: HFWD/EW/CE/TA-3/AE-1/TND/2025-26/2732 Date: 18.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION -2nd Call & 3rd Call

The Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Contractors registered in KPWD in two Cover tender document system through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for the following works taken up under Deposit Contribution works and 15th Finance.

Sl. No.	Description of works	Approximate Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Construction of 2nd and 3rd Floors above existing P.G Hostel for Women at K.M.I.O Bengaluru (Call-2)-Deposit contribution (KMIO)	187.30	2.85	09 Months
2	Construction of Medical Records, Storage of IV FLUIDS/Saline (Glucose) Bottles and Establishing 24x7 Medicine Dispensary Counter in Ground, First & Second Floors by Demolishing existing old Dining hall Building in front of Hop-Coms Shops at KMIO Bengaluru (Call-2)- Deposit contribution (KMIO).	235.80	3.60	09 Months
3	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at 1) Mantapa in Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District & 2) Nosenuru in Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District (Call-3)- 15th Finance.	109.00	2.00	05 Months
4	Up-Gradation of Existing CHC from 30 Bedded to 50 Bedded Hospital at Rampura, Molakalmur Taluk, Chitradurga District (Indent No.1366 Call-2) - 15th Finance.	436.10	6.60	05 Months

Calendar of Events-For Sl. No. 1 & 3: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **03.12.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.** **(2)** Date of opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **04.12.2025 at 16.01 hrs.**

Calendar of Events-For Sl. No. 2 & 4: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **18.12.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.** **(2)** Date of opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **19.12.2025 at 16.01 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP Portal Platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the KPP Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. **(2)** Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

Woman collapses, dies in Sabarimala queue amid massive rush

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The heavy influx of pilgrims at the Lord Ayyappa shrine in Sabarimala led to a near stampede-like situation on Tuesday.

A 58-year-old woman collapsed and died while waiting in queue for darshan, sources from the district administration said.

Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) president K Jayakumar told reporters that the woman's body would be transported back to her native place in an ambulance at the TDB's expense. The deceased woman is from Koyilandy in Kozhikode district, officials said.

People arrive to offer prayers at the Sabarimala temple in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district on Tuesday. PTI

Pilgrims were forced to wait in a queue for more than 10 hours for darshan. Many returned without darshan. After waiting for hours, many pilgrims jumped the barricades at the 'Nada pandal' (queue complex) near the temple and rushed towards the 'Pathinettam padi' (18 holy steps).

This led to a near-stampede situation near the holy steps at noon. The police personnel struggled to manage the pilgrims. Many children and elderly persons suffered discomfort owing to the commotion.

Additional director general of police S Sreejith, who is in charge of the Sabarimala security arrangements, rushed to the spot and made arrangements to manage the crowd. The closing time of the temple was also extended by one hour from 1 pm to 2 pm.

He said even as the maximum pilgrims allowed daily through virtual queue booking is 70,000 and through spot booking is 20,000, more pilgrims reached the temple during the day.

Devaswom president Jayakumar said the maximum number of pilgrims during a day would be strictly restricted to one lakh and pilgrims would be allowed only in the time slots allowed to them. In order to manage the crowd, spot booking facilities would be set up in other halting places.

There was widespread criticism about inadequate arrangements and facilities. Many pilgrims complained about the lack of water and food.

The CPM-led government came under fire from the Congress, as well as the BJP, for a lack of proper arrangements.

(With PTI inputs)

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Hasina sentence will test India's diplomacy

The sentencing of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by a tribunal in that country is a chronicle of death foretold, as it was clear from the beginning that the trial would end with the maximum sentence for her. The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) described her as the "mastermind and principal architect" of the 2024 crackdown that claimed many lives during the protests that led to her ouster and escape to India. Hasina has rejected the judgement, coming from a "rigged tribunal established and presided over by an unelected government". She has challenged the interim rulers to bring these charges in the International Criminal Court (ICC) at the Hague. Her party, the Awami League, has also approached the ICC for a probe into 'retaliatory violence' against its functionaries.

Political parties, including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and other groups aligned against Hasina and the Awami League, have welcomed the ruling. The interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus has hailed the judgement as "historic", but the ruling is marked by strong bias and prejudice. ICTs, typically, have international judges, jurors, and prosecutors, but the tribunal that convicted Hasina had only Bangladeshi judges. Her sole defence lawyer was appointed by the government. Bangladesh now has a polarised and vindictive political culture. Hasina can not disown her role in the rise of that culture. The political climate in Bangladesh has grown more vicious now, with the addition of Islamic fundamentalism and intolerance to the mix. Hasina has turned out to be a victim of that culture. In this scenario, especially after the ban on the Awami League, there is no possibility of free and fair elections. The Awami League is still a force in the country, as seen in the response to its lockdown calls in protest against Hasina's trial.

Biased conviction reflects the polarised political climate in Bangladesh and puts India in a diplomatic bind

The Bangladesh government has repeated the demand for Hasina's extradition in the wake of the judgement. It said that it would be an "extremely unfriendly act and contempt for justice" if any country were to grant asylum to an individual convicted of crimes against humanity. India has made a guarded response and said it remains committed to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh, and would engage constructively with all stakeholders. It has not questioned or criticised the judgement, but the demand will be a diplomatic test. India cannot give away a leader who was a friend for decades and is certain to resist Bangladesh's demand, which is likely to gain strength after the February election.

Blackbuck deaths: Strengthen safeguards

The death of 31 blackbucks at the Kittur Rani Chennamma Mini Zoo in Belagavi raises questions about the state's ability to protect the very wildlife it is entrusted to conserve. These antelopes, listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, are among the most endangered species in the country. They are kept in zoos not for display alone, but to aid conservation through healthy breeding. Laboratory reports have confirmed, on Tuesday, that the deaths happened due to Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS), a bacterial disease. Officials at the zoo are investigating how the animals could have contracted the infection and are monitoring the health of seven other blackbucks – also infected – and other animals in the facility. Even as the authorities await conclusive evidence on the contamination, the incident presents an opportunity for the state to bolster existing safeguards. When a large number of animals die within 72 hours, it shows that systems meant to flag early warning signs may have faltered.

The Belagavi incident calls for improved systems of captive wildlife management in the state

Officials argue that blackbucks are sensitive animals that cannot be trapped for vaccination, and that medication is administered through food. Yet, if all herbivores were given the same food and only the blackbucks succumbed, it points to a possible species-specific vulnerability. Experts are also considering the possibility of the animals having contracted the infection because of a shift in climate patterns.

What must the state do now? First, accountability cannot stop at action relevant to individual cases. The government should initiate an independent, time-bound inquiry with wildlife health experts, epidemiologists, and zoo management specialists, not just forest officers investigating their own ranks. Second, it must overhaul biosecurity protocols across all zoos. This includes strict sanitation rules for staff, ensuring uncontaminated water sources, and enforcing mandatory vaccination of cattle in the adjoining villages to cut off potential disease reservoirs. Third, every zoo must establish 24×7 health surveillance units with adequate staffing, training, and diagnostic support. A centralised database for tracking symptoms, treatments, and mortality across the state's zoos is essential for early detection of outbreaks. Ultimately, the government must recognise that conservation in captivity entails an ethical responsibility. When endangered species die in such numbers, it is also a breach of the public's trust in the state's ability to safeguard its wildlife. The deaths must be a turning point in Karnataka's approach to captive wildlife; one that leads to institutional reform, scientific accountability, and a stronger culture of care within the state's conservation framework.

TRANSLATING RESEARCH

Ideas that travel: India's deep science moment

RDIF promises transformative innovation, but results hinge on strong lab-to-market systems and industry partnerships

GURUCHARAN GOLLERKERI

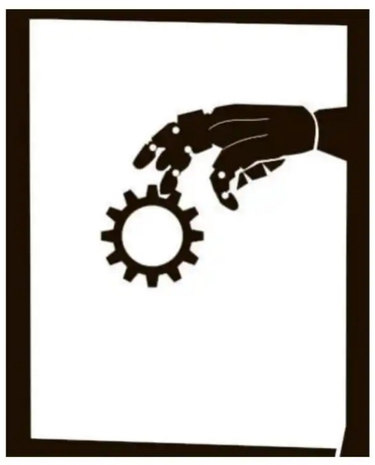
The Government of India's decision to establish the Research Development and Innovation Fund (RDIF) under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) marks a historic inflection point in India's scientific journey. With a corpus of Rs 1 lakh crore to be deployed over six years, the RDIF is far more than another funding scheme – it signals the country's determination to de-risk private investment in research and innovation, and to position India among the top five nations in frontier technologies within the coming decade. But money alone does not make innovation. The challenge is to convert this funding moment into a deep-science transformation – to build an ecosystem that can translate India's expanding research base into usable technologies, new industries, and global competitiveness.

India today spends just 0.64% of its GDP on R&D, and the private sector contributes only 36.4% of that. In advanced economies, the share of private investment in research routinely exceeds 70%. The RDIF explicitly seeks to correct this imbalance by "de-risking" corporate participation in R&D through co-funding, fiscal incentives, and strategic partnerships. Yet, the success of this initiative will depend on more than capital allocation; it will hinge on our ability to build institutional translational capacity.

Three global blueprints show us how. Each underscores a vital truth: innovation succeeds when discovery and deployment are structurally connected.

The Belfer study makes an uncomfortable observation: across the world, even top universities produce enormous scientific knowledge, but little of it translates into practical technologies. The gap – the "valley of death" – lies between TRL 2 (proof of principle) and TRL 6 (validated prototype). Most academic research stops well before that bridge is crossed. India, too, faces this missing middle. Our labs teem with creative talent, yet few discoveries evolve into products, patents, or ventures. What is needed is a translational infrastructure – proof-of-concept (PoC) funds, entrepreneur-in-residence programmes, and early engagement with industry – that can push science from curiosity to commercial readiness. The RDIF can serve as the backbone of such a system if it explicitly earmarks a part of its corpus for university-based translational accelerators.

RISE Europe's Sciencepreneurship Playbook examines how European universities created "lab-to-market" cultures by re-engineering incentives, not just budgets. Faculty are encouraged to form spinouts. Research groups are aligned with industry clusters. Translational Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) – not just publication counts – are used to evaluate performance. Most importantly, universities build shared testbeds and invite corporate partners to co-locate on campus. If India's RDI framework is to catalyse private participation, co-location and co-creation



must replace transactional collaborations. Industry should not merely sponsor research; it should work alongside researchers from the outset.

Imagine if every RDIF-supported university established an Industry Translation Council, composed of R&D heads from the top 20 companies in its region. Such councils could guide PoC investments, open testbeds, and serve as early customers for lab-developed technologies. That is how public money crowds in private innovation. The US National Centre for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) offers a less glamorous but critical insight: successful translation depends on process rigour. NCATS argues that reproducibility, milestone tracking, and cross-disciplinary teams are essential to avoid waste and accelerate impact. In India, where research often operates in silos, this is a wake-up call. RDIF funding must come with translational performance dashboards – tracking cycle times, success probabilities, and readiness levels.

The government has rightly declared that India aims to be among the top three to five nations in five to ten key technologies. The following stand out as deep-science frontiers where India can lead if the RDIF catalyses coordinated public-private investment: (1) Semiconductors and Electronics Manufacturing, (2) AI, Robotics, and Advanced Computing, (3) Green Hydrogen and Sustainable Energy Materials, (4) Life Sciences and Precision Health, and (5) Advanced Materials, Quantum Technologies, and Space Systems.

Measuring outcomes anew

To truly transform India's research landscape, universities must evolve from knowledge producers to impact platforms. This means three structural shifts: (1) Dedicated translational units – each research university should host a "Sciencepreneurship Studio" with PoC funding, IP management support, and access to industry mentors; (2) Joint R&D labs – universities and corporates should operate shared laboratories with co-funded researchers and open IP models; and (3) Founder-friendly policies – faculty should be allowed sabbaticals to launch spinouts; IP ownership should be equitably shared; venture participation should be legitimised as an academic outcome. Private industry must seize this opportunity.

The government's de-risking signal is clear: for every rupee invested in national R&D, private capital will be matched and protected through public support. But this should not become another CSR token. Companies must view R&D partnerships as strategic assets – ways to build proprietary technology, secure supply chains, and achieve global competitiveness. Corporate venture arms, R&D consortia, and innovation challenges under the RDIF umbrella can accelerate this shift.

India's innovation problem is not one of talent or ideas; it is one of translation and trust. Researchers rarely trust the private sector to value science; industry doubts academia's speed or reliability. We must redefine success. Instead of measuring "how much we spent," we must measure "how far ideas travelled." These are the metrics of a confident, innovation-driven nation. The RDIF represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity. With Rs 1 lakh crore at stake, India can finally align its research ecosystem with its economic ambitions. But to do so, we must move from funding research to translating research; from grant disbursement to outcome orchestration. If we combine Belfer's entrepreneurial model, RISE Europe's ecosystem pragmatism, and NCATS's process discipline, and weave them into the RDIF's fabric, we can create a powerful national translational engine.

This is India's deep science moment, which must become a movement where every rupee of research leads to innovation, every innovation leads to industry, and every industry contributes to national self-reliance. Only then will Viksit Bharat be not just a slogan, but a scientifically grounded, innovation-powered reality.

(The writer is Director, School of Social Sciences, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Be the butterfly

Change carries its own quiet charm

ANURADHA RAJAN

'What are you doing?' asked my 6-year-old brother as I painstakingly drew a flower—a whole bouquet, really—on a sheet of chart paper I had measured and cut with great care. "I am making a greeting card for Amma. It's her birthday tomorrow, you know."

Those were the days when we actually took the time, trouble, and effort to make cards and write letters. Birthdays and anniversaries were always occasions to celebrate, and as children with a meagre Rs 10 or 15 as pocket money, it made perfect sense to save up for essential chart paper and make our own cards instead of buying expensive ready-made ones. It helped, of course, that my brother and I were fairly artistically inclined.

These hand-crafted 'works of art' were warmly received by friends, who appreciated the budding enterprise and creativity. Back then, I tracked birthdays diligently, taping a list to my cupboard so I would remember to wish everyone. In less than two decades, greeting cards were replaced entirely—first by their ubiquitous cousins, 'e-cards', and soon after by the far more impersonal posts on social networking sites, helpfully prompted by pop-up reminders of birthdays 'coming up this month'.

I still remember, not too long ago, making a giant card wishing a student a speedy recovery or painting a group of horses for a friend. I even went through a Ganesha phase, sketching several to gift on New Year. There were cards for every reason, season, and mood, and I took great pride in customising them.

True, making cards demanded time and effort, but I planned carefully and became the family's resident supplier—sometimes even taking advance bookings in bulk for special occasions. In the true spirit of it all, my parents paid me a modest stipend, which went straight into my piggy bank.

With the arrival of the Internet, I tried waging a small war against hi-tech greetings – the digital cards and slick WhatsApp messages. Eventually, I gave up, especially when my lovingly posted cards drew no response from friends through India Post.

I still sketch and paint, but now it is a "limited edition": pieces created only for family occasions. I look back wistfully at those days of experimenting with styles—leaf prints, seed work, and block printing. I miss them, yet I also recognise that as times change, we must change too. As Alan Watts said, "The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance."

After all, there is a kind of poetry even online — in our blog posts, our social networks, our attempts at terse haiku-like messages, and the digital sketches some of us create to brighten special moments. So let us wake up and smell the coffee, reminding ourselves that there is something in this shift in our lifestyles too. After all, "if nothing changed, there would be no butterflies." Be the butterfly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bengaluru-Tumakuru metro idea not viable

The recent report on the proposed Namma Metro corridor between Bengaluru and Tumakuru raises fundamental questions about its relevance, cost, and actual utility. While the project is being portrayed as a major stride in regional connectivity, it appears to be an extravagant experiment rather than a necessity for the people of Tumakuru. With a speed of just 34 kmph, the metro will take nearly two hours to reach Bengaluru, almost the same as a regular bus or train. If the journey duration remains the same, what is the purpose of building such an expensive line? Moreover, metro fares are known to be significantly higher, making it inaccessible for daily wage earners, students, and middle-class regular commuters. Why should public money be poured into a project that will serve only a privileged few?
Vishal Mayur, Tumakuru

Voice of the young

Bihar made history by electing 25-year-old Maithili Thakur, a singer, as its youngest MLA, marking a clear vote for youth leadership. Her win gives her a strong platform to serve people with fresh ideas and dedication. It also highlights the growing power of the 'Bihar *ki beti*' narrative and the expanding role of women in politics.
P V Prakash, Mumbai

Erosion of privacy

I refer to 'Privacy law has a fine print of State control' (Nov 18). Democracy guarantees freedom and a reasonable expectation of privacy. The Supreme Court has rightly affirmed that the right to privacy is fundamental. Yet today, governments, intelligence agencies, and tech companies appear united in a common enterprise: surveillance and erosion of privacy.
H N Ramakrishna, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

We have our campaign. The way the electoral roll was tinkered with, every effort was made to influence the election, money and force was used in Haryana elections. By colluding with the EC, they (BJP) did this. The Congress is on the ground to save democracy and the Constitution. The CEC is with the BJP... So this is our fight.

Deepender Singh Hooda, Congress leader

Who looks outside, dreams;
who looks inside, awakes.

Carl Jung

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

A ruling to restore trans rights

With the *Jane Kaushik* verdict, the Supreme Court pushes substantive equality and signals hope amid systemic discrimination

ARVIND NARRAIN

The judgement of the Supreme Court in *Jane Kaushik v Union of India*, delivered on October 17, 2025, by a bench consisting of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan, is not only the vindication of a transgender woman's fight against discrimination, but also a much-needed boost to the LGBTQI movement in the country.

It appeared that the ruling in *Supriyo v Union of India*, which rejected marriage equality, dealt a severe blow to the movement towards LGBTQI equality through legal process. However, the decision in *Jane Kaushik* has reopened a path to justice.

The logic and reasoning of the judgement, the important mandatory directions issued to the Union and state governments, as well as the continuing commitment to improving transgender lives, as seen in the constitution of a committee to take forward the constitutional vision of transgender rights, mark *Jane Kaushik* as a significant intervention by the top court.

The petitioner, Jane Kaushik, is a transgender woman who suffered an all-too-common experience of discrimination against the community. Jane's application for employment as a school teacher was rejected on the grounds of her being transgender. There being no functional mechanism to deal with grievances about discrimination of this nature, she had no choice but to approach the Supreme Court for redress.

The Court found that there was discrimination perpetrated by the school in which Jane sought employment, as the institution did not employ her solely because she is transgender. For this act, the Court ordered the school to compensate Jane Kaushik with Rs 50,000.

The apex court went beyond the individual petitioner and identified structural reasons for the discrimination suffered by Jane in the inactions of the government of Uttar Pradesh and the Union government, for which they were both ordered to compensate Jane with Rs 50,000 each.

A key reason why transgender persons continue to experience discrimination in society lies in the grossly apathetic attitude of both the Union and state governments, which have reduced the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019 to a dead letter. The Court characterised this State inaction as neither 'inadvertent or accidental', but 'intentional' and stemming from 'deep-rooted societal stigma' which results in a 'lack of bureaucratic will to effectuate the provisions of the 2019 Act and the 2020 Rules'.

It is to be noted that the Act itself comes with flaws. For the Court, 'the marginalisation of transgender persons is often perpetuated not only by overt acts of discrimination, but also through the silence and gaps in the statute, i.e., the 2019 Act.'

Jane Kaushik suffered discrimination during her application for employment because the state government has not bothered to implement even the flawed Act. This double failure is a form of 'omissive discrimination' which is violative of the constitutional guarantee of the equal protection of laws to transgender persons.

The Supreme Court has refused to be silent in the face of this discrimination. It has taken constitutional action to both recognise and remedy gaps in the law so as to realise substantive equality, by crafting a series of innovative reliefs.

Towards equal opportunity

The Court has passed certain mandatory directions to both the Union and the state government to ensure that the Act translates into real protection of the community. Among the important interventions is the direction to state governments to ensure that every establishment (government or private) appoints a complaints officer to deal with grievances raised by transgender persons regarding violations of the Act.

The Court, however, recognises that 'directions' alone may have a limited impact and has constituted a committee consisting of transgender rights advocates, academics, lawyers, and government officials. The committee has been tasked with the mandate of preparing a comprehensive report that includes the formulation of a 'viable and comprehensive equal opportunity policy for the transgender community in the arenas of education and employment'. Among the members of the Committee from Karnataka are transgender rights activist Akkai Padmashali, senior advocate Jayna Kothari, and Nithya Rajshekhar from the Centre for Law and Policy Research.

The committee must now initiate extensive engagement with the trans community and ensure that the concerns of every section of the community are represented in the committee's deliberations. It is also up to the LGBTQI rights activists to engage intensively with the committee and ensure that it comes up with recommendations that can help transform the landscape for transgender rights in India. This is an opportunity that must not be missed.

(The writer is a Bengaluru-based lawyer)

Why Karnataka's climate path cannot be divorced from hunger

BHARGAVI S RAO

The Global Hunger Index report, which ranks the ten hungriest countries in the world, categorises India under the 'serious concern' category. This is deeply troubling. While India is making significant strides in building mega infrastructure projects such as airports, highways, and renewable energy installations, a key point to bear in mind is that all of these projects are land-intensive and are pushing local communities away from their land and livelihoods.

Access to land is crucial in addressing hunger. With the impacts of climate change already making life difficult for many, traditional knowledge and livelihoods are under threat. Across the country, land tenure is about more than cultivation. A range of agro-pastoral livelihoods has coexisted for thousands of years, and this diversity is what helps communities tide over difficult years, even in the face of failed monsoons.

For many, the promise of irrigation to some of the most fertile lands remains a distant dream. Instead, they are coerced into parting with their land for various developmental projects, with little agency to negotiate. Once people are stripped of their land, their ability to deal with the risks of climate events is low, and they become highly vulnerable. Secure access to land enables households to grow food, fodder, and cash crops and to diversify their production based on local conditions. Land ownership also ensures access to loans.

With increasing pressure to divert land to various mega-infrastructure projects—including utility-scale solar parks being established in the name of climate change—a large section of the most vulnerable is left without any means to fend for themselves. Their skills in growing food, rearing animals, and weaving baskets, blankets and cloth, as well as other handmade arts and crafts, have limited scope for making a living in the absence of land, including access to the commons.

Loss of land results in migration, back-breaking construction, and other low-paid, far from dignified, informal jobs. Girl children are often pulled out of school. Child marriage, early childbearing, and lack of access to food are the beginning of the stories of increasing numbers of maternal mortality, infant mortality, and stunted and wasted children in many parts of the country.

Karnataka has been the leader in solar energy with an installed capacity of nearly 10,000 MW. Pavagada, Chamarajnagar, and Koppal are demonstrating large-scale solar energy production. One needs to remember that these are also some of the most backward areas. And the diversion of land comes at a considerable cost to local communities, who receive little in return. A top-down model, implemented through a parastatal that the state is proud of, is slowly pushing people off their land and livelihood.

According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), a large percentage of children in the state are stunted (35.4%), wasted (19.5%), and underweight (32.5%). Income loss due to joblessness has pushed families to the brink of starvation. There are many challenges to schemes reaching the most needy.

This November, as world leaders have assembled at the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 30) in Belum, Brazil, to discuss climate commitments, focus on finance, and implementation, Karnataka needs to reimagine its climate allegiance and revise its land diversion models if it is to ensure its people do not go to bed hungry. With its 6,000-odd panchayats and non-conventional energy being a function of the Panchayat as per the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, a local, cooperative, community-owned model that ensures energy, livelihood, food, and water security could be the way.

If each of these panchayats were to plan in consultation with their communities, comprehensive, energy-livelihood-food and water-secure panchayats, it could shift the narrative. If every gram panchayat initiates a cooperative-owned solar park, with local women and men as shareholders, the state would be a true leader in reimagining its rural development. This certainly has to be accompanied by rooftop solar mandated in urban centres.

Ensuring that women and youth are central to the cooperative, combined with capacity building and protection of the rural commons, would go a long way not only for food security but also for achieving multiple gains. With its strong solar baseline, as Karnataka just celebrated its 70th Rajyotsava this month, it is well-positioned to reimagine its commitments to address climate targets and secure an equitable, resilient, and nourished Karnataka. The state has long been regarded as a pioneer in strengthening Panchayat Raj Institutions with early devolution of functions and funds. Over the years, there's been some uneven genuine autonomy in planning and managing natural resources. However, with the climate clock ticking, Karnataka must link its climate commitments to land tenure security and food security. It's truly time for Panchayats to lead.

(The writer is an independent researcher)

European policymakers are crafting changes to scale back and simplify landmark rules for AI and data privacy, in a shift from an aggressive regulatory period

ADAM SATARIANO AND JEANNA SMIALEK

NYT

Europe begins rethinking its crackdown on Big Tech

After more than a decade of aggressively regulating the technology industry, the European Union is having second thoughts. In a significant shift, policymakers in Brussels are moving to scale back and simplify landmark rules for artificial intelligence and data privacy. Driven by growing concern that over-regulation is stifling economic growth, officials and business leaders across the 27-nation bloc are questioning whether Europe's digital rule book has gone too far and left companies lagging the United States and China. The Trump administration has also criticised Europe's regulations.

The rethinking is set to be laid out in a "digital package of simplification" that the European Commission, which manages much of the bloc's day-to-day work, plans to unveil Wednesday. According to drafts circulated in recent weeks, which were reviewed by *The New York Times*, key aspects of the General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, a data privacy law, would be rewritten. Parts of a law restricting certain uses of AI would also be delayed.

Europe has long been seen as Big Tech's most formidable global watchdog. Authorities in Brussels have levied billions of dollars in fines and forced business changes at Amazon, Apple, Google and Meta for antitrust breaches, data abuses and the unchecked spread of illicit content. Policymakers passed laws to keep the biggest tech companies from boxing out smaller rivals and to force social media platforms to combat disinformation and harmful material.

Those actions contrasted with the more hands-off approach of the United States, while offering a template for governments from Latin America to Asia to regulate the tech sector. Any retreat by Europe could ease pressure on the largest tech companies and signal the start of a more restrained era of oversight for the digital economy.

"Regulation cannot be the best export product of the EU," said Aura Salla, a member of the European Parliament from Finland. Salla, who once worked as a lobbyist for Meta, said companies faced a "jungle" of overlapping and sometimes contradictory rules that slowed product development and pushed businesses to move elsewhere.

The digital simplification package is part of broader deregulatory push this year by Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission president. It follows the departure of officials like her former vice president, Margrethe Vestager, who spearheaded much of the tech clampdown over the past 10 years.

How far Europe's policy shift might go remains to be seen. The proposals, already the target of heavy lobbying from Silicon Valley and other interest groups, are relatively narrow. But they reflect a growing belief in Brussels that changes are needed to revive Europe's competitiveness. Criticism from the Trump administration that the bloc's rules unfairly target US firms has added to the urgency.

The changes may not happen for months, as they require approval from the European Parliament and a substantial majority of countries in the European Union.

Many of the proposed changes aim to encourage AI development in Europe. The potential changes to the GDPR would make it easier for companies to use data—including sensitive personal information—to build AI systems.

Officials also want to delay, until at least 2027, key pieces of the AI Act, the world's most comprehensive law for the use of artificial intelligence. That could postpone enforcement of measures related to "high-risk" uses of AI in areas such as hiring and education. Regulators have faced pressure from US tech firms, as well as European businesses like Airbus, ASML and Mercedes-Benz, to slow the rollout of the law.

Another major change would redefine the European Union's concept of "personal data," relaxing a key privacy protection to make it easier for companies to sell information collected about users.

"This is really a mind-shift," said Patrick Van Eecke, head of European cyber, data and privacy at the law firm Cooley, which represents many tech companies.

Some of the moves may be welcomed by consumers. One would scale back the widespread use of the pop-up boxes on websites that ask users to allow data tracking. People would be allowed to set their privacy preferences once in a browser, rather than being bombarded with requests at each website.

European officials have said the proposals do not represent a major deregulatory pivot and are aimed at simplifying rules to help businesses and consumers. But proponents of regulation fear the changes would weaken one of the few bulwarks against the tech industry.

"It's really clear that the winds have been changing," said Mathias Vermeulen, a co-founder of the digital policy consultancy AWO in Brussels. "A continent that has prided itself for at least a decade on its tech-focused regulation is now almost doing this complete U-turn and rethinking its approach."

Vermeulen said tech regulation had become an easy scapegoat for Europe's economic malaise. Scaling back oversight could benefit American and Chinese companies most of all, he said.

"Tweaks to the GDPR aren't magically going to solve Europe's competitiveness problem," he said.

Many in Brussels are preparing to protect the tech regulations. Brando Benifei, a member of the European Parliament from Italy who helped draft the AI Act, warned of a "race-to-the-bottom deregulatory agenda."

"The claim that Europe must choose between innovation and regulation is a false dichotomy," he said. "Weakening accountability would be shortsighted from an economic point of view and democratically irresponsible."

The European Union is not abandoning its oversight. Regulators are pressing ahead with major cases against tech companies. In April, Apple was fined 500 million euros (about $580 million) for anticompetitive business practices. Elon Musk's social platform X is under investigation for its freewheeling approach to policing user content. Last week, the commission began investigating Google's search-ranking policies.

The commission has not proposed amending two regulations that US tech companies complain the most about. One, the Digital Markets Act, is meant to encourage digital competitiveness. The other, the Digital Services Act, requires platforms to monitor harmful content on their websites.

Yet the changes to be released Wednesday are a notable evolution. The shift in tone could have global repercussions, if countries elsewhere follow suit.

"The EU is the most established, credible, legitimate model regulator," said Anu Bradford, a Columbia Law School professor who coined the term "Brussels effect" to describe the European Union's outsize influence on global oversight. If Europe pulls back, she said, other nations might think that "maybe we should be having second thoughts as well."

Policymakers are trying to boost Europe's position in the digital economy. The region trails in startup investment and is home to only a few major tech companies, like the music service Spotify, business software firm SAP and semiconductor equipment maker ASML. The highest-profile AI companies, such as OpenAI, are in the United States or China.

The European Union faces an "existential" threat to its prosperity without sweeping economic changes, Mario Draghi, a former president of the European Central Bank, warned in an influential report last year.

Michael McGrath, the European Union commissioner overseeing justice and consumer protection issues, said last week that the point of the digital tech package was "reducing administrative burden" for companies, calling it a "sensible initiative" that would iron out duplication through targeted tweaks.

The New York Times

Living legacy of the 'Mother of Trees'

R KRISHNA CHAITANYA

Along the road between Hulikal and Kudur, an avenue of towering banyan trees forms a natural cathedral, offering weary travellers a sanctuary of cool shade and fresh air beneath their expansive canopies. This green corridor --nearly 400 trees along a four-kilometre stretch-- stands as a testament to one woman's extraordinary spirit, a legacy generations will cherish. She owned little but gave everything to the land she called mother. Her story continues to inspire those who walk beneath those branches to recognise the power of individual initiative and selfless service.

Thimmakka, fondly known as Saalumarada Thimmakka, was born in the Gubbi taluk of Tumakuru district to Chikkarangaiah and Vijayamma. With no formal education, she worked as a quarry labourer. She married young, to Bikkala Chikkayya, and moved to Hulikal village in Magadi taluk. Childless, the couple bore not just profound sorrow but also the heavy burden of social stigma. To cope with their grief, they found solace in planting trees and nurturing them as their own children. This decision became her life's purpose.

In 1948, a saga of ecological devotion began with 10 banyan saplings planted along a challenging 4.5 km stretch of road. It marked the start of an extraordinary commitment by a couple determined to cultivate a living legacy. With fierce dedication, they used their meagre income to build fences of thorny shrubs to protect the saplings from grazing cattle. Their method was simple but effective: they planted with the monsoon, letting nature provide the first nourishment. But when the rains ceased, their true test began. In the harsh dry season, they carried pails of water for miles to keep the young trees alive. This effort continued for decades, the numbers growing from ten to hundreds. Over her lifetime, Thimmakka planted nearly 8,000 trees.

After her husband's passing in 1991, she continued their mission alone, drawing renewed strength from the silent companionship of the trees they had tended together. In 1996, a local journalist brought her story to wider attention, illuminating a life of quiet devotion that resonated far beyond Karnataka. Her tireless work earned her several honours, including the National Citizen's Award (1995), the Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Award (1997), and the Nadoja Award from Hampi University (2010).

Her humble hut slowly filled with plaques and garlands from admiring officials, yet financial hardship persisted. Despite the accolades, Thimmakka survived on a meagre government pension of Rs 500. "People come and give me accolades and certificates," she once said, noting that her phone was sometimes disconnected for want of bill payment. Her legacy flourished even as her personal finances withered—a testament to a life dedicated not to wealth, but to the Earth itself, earning her the title "Mother of Trees".

Her story reached an international audience when the BBC featured her in a powerful 2016 video series, recognising her as one of the year's 100 most influential women. A US-based environmental organisation was named in her honour, Thimmakka's Resources for Environmental Education. In 2019, she received India's fourth-highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri.

Despite global acclaim, Thimmakka remained deeply engaged with her local community. Her activism was potent enough to shape government policy: in 2019, following her appeal, the Karnataka government altered the alignment of the Bagepalli-Halaguru road-widening project to protect the very trees she had nurtured. Her life story is now featured in Karnataka state textbooks, teaching generations about her inspiring work. The Central University of Karnataka awarded her with an honorary doctorate in 2020. She passed away on November 14.

Environmentalism is an integral aspect of our culture, rooted in philosophical and spiritual foundations rather than reactive responses to industrialisation or ecological crises. Saalumarada Thimmakka is indeed a torchbearer of this indigenous thought process. She is a profound example of perseverance and selfless environmental activism without the expectation of recognition. Her life offers significant lessons for the younger generation often accustomed to quick results and superficial accolades. Thimmakka's legacy emphasises the enduring power of sustained and grassroots efforts. The banyans' roots remain deep-rooted, their branches entwined with the grace of the woman who mothered them into being, a living tribute to her nurture.

(The writer is an associate professor at the School of Life Sciences, Central University of Karnataka)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 1975

Ban on buildings may be lifted to help steel industry

Bhadravati, November 18
The ban imposed on the construction of buildings may be relaxed shortly to ease the recent glut in the mild steel market. This was indicated today by Union Minister for Steel and Mines Chandrajit Yadav while laying the foundation-stone of the Rs. 14-crore Forge Plant of the Mysore Iron and Steel Works, Bhadravati. He said the Government was aware of the difficulties of the mild steel market. It would not last long as the country's growing industry will fuel demand for steel, he asserted.

25 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 2000

Bush leads by 927 votes

Tallahassee, Florida, Nov 18 (AP)
Latest results from the overseas absentee ballot count in the presidential race in Florida today showed Republican George W. Bush leading Democrat Al Gore by 927 votes in the overall vote. The tally includes vote totals already certified by the State plus the overseas ballots. With overseas votes in 66 of 67 counties counted, the survey by The AP shows Mr Bush picked up 1,375 votes and Al Gore gained 748 votes. These do not include vote gains made by the candidates in disputed hand recounts underway in Broward and Palm Beach counties.

OASIS | PRASANNA S HARIHAR

The journey within: Uncovering the true self

The just-born little bundle of joy recognises the mother's warmth as its humble abode. Then recognises the father and everything around that offers comfort – a natural process. In the lure of the outside, the growing little child loses itself in the grandeur of the variegated universe and takes as real what is seen and experienced.

Once at a threshold, an inner flutter takes birth to know – Who am I?! The body and the mind, believed to be the self, have changed continuously. What has changed until now, changes even now, and will continue to change into the future cannot be my real self, and so what and where is the constant?

In our own experience, we forget our own possessions, our body, and our mind – but when? In our daily deep sleep, body frailties and the existence of family members as well as possessions are not known. This is everyone's deep-sleep experience. Here the body and its sense organs are dormant while the mind is quiescent.

Sleep also creates a dream world that offers a variety of experiences – tasteful sweet dreams or a harrowing nightmare. The body and its sense organs are dormant while the mind is active, which also creates a dream body to experience the dream contents.

When one wakes up, there is undeniably a desire to go back to the same silence with remembrance of two things – one, the deep sleep was the best, and two, the dream was full of content. The former is common to all, while the latter is personalised to the individual.

The awake person now starts to experience the external world with their sense organs.

A dive into the three states makes it evident that the mind is a common factor – dormant in the former and active in the latter two. Vedanta draws a conclusion – mind is responsible for the world that we individually view, cognise, and experience. The three states are witnessed by the True Self. A well-cultivated mind (through meditation) in an awake state puts to rest the content seen by inquiry. This is the realisation of knowing one's own self through clarity in understanding the reality of the world outside as a dream! Truly waking up in the awake state.

Can we start to delve into our experiences from inside to outside – ready for a U-turn?

2020 Delhi riots attack on sovereignty of nation, Delhi Police tell SC

Say it was a systematic attempt to divide the society on communal lines

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Delhi Police on Tuesday vehemently opposed the bail pleas filed by activists Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam and others in the 2020 Delhi riots, saying that instead of being a spontaneous act of violence, it was choreographed, well-designed and well-crafted, attack on the sovereignty of the nation.

Police led by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the Supreme Court that it was a systematic and synchronised attempt to divide the society on communal lines and divide the nation, and it is not a case of communal riot per se.

He submitted before a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria, "First of all, that myth has to be busted. This was not a spontaneous riot. It was a well-designed, well-crafted, well-orchestrated, pre-planned, choreographed riot. That will emerge from the evidence collected."

"Some groups clashed, there is violence, some animal is killed, there is violence. One community attacks another, and then there is violence. This was not a spontaneous act of violence. It was an attack on the sovereignty of the nation. I say this with a sense of responsibility," Mehta said.

In statement after statement, there is a clear and discernible attempt to divide the society on communal lines, and it was not merely an agitation against one particular act of the government, he claimed.

Giving an example, he said, Sharjeel Imam, a supposedly intellectual and for whom much narrative is built outside the court and no arguments were advanced inside the court.

He (Imam) said it is his heartfelt wish that there is chakka jam not just in Delhi but for every city where Muslims reside, Imam asks if Muslims are incapacitated that they cannot close down Uttar Pradesh, despite Muslims being 30% of the population, why are cities able to run. He was not talking of only Delhi, Mehta claimed.

Mehta insisted that the riots were not Delhi-centric according to their plan, and riots could not spread due to the security agencies.

"He (Imam) goes on to say that Muslims of the countries must unite and separate north-east from the country...it was not a spontaneous riot. It needs to be taken very seriously...then he says that the real goal is to ensure that Delhi does not get milk. This is not a protest as sought to be made out," Mehta said.

He contended that one of the accused also challenged the authority of the court, and that the accused are responsible for the delay in the trial of the case.

Bus tragedy: Families to reach Saudi Arabia for mass funeral

HYDERABAD, DHNS: A Telangana government delegation led by Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin reached Saudi Arabia to coordinate relief efforts and oversee funeral arrangements for the victims of Monday's bus tragedy, in which around 45 pilgrims died.

About 50 relatives of the deceased have been identified to travel to the Gulf nation for the funerals, which are expected to take place on Thursday.

DNA tests will be conducted to facilitate death certification.

Sources in the Telangana government said they expect the Saudi authorities to extend compensation to the victims' families, in addition to the ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh announced by the state government and travel assistance.

"There were some issues with the passports of two individuals intending to travel to Saudi Arabia, but those are being resolved. The Minorities Welfare Department is closely coordinating with the families of the deceased," an official said.

The official added that the Revenue Department is issuing the necessary documents to the bereaved families. On Monday, the state government had announced that two members from each victim's family would be taken to Saudi Arabia to attend funerals.

Govt introduces next-gen e-passports to check fraud

NEW DELHI, PTI

In a major upgrade of its passport-related system, the government has introduced a next-generation "e-passport" that combines both paper and electronic elements, a step that also seeks to detect and check forgery, impersonation and other fraudulent acts.

A senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday said old legacy passports, which have not expired, will continue to remain valid till 2035 or until their expiry.

The MEA recently announced the successful rollout of the upgraded version of its flagship Passport Seva Programme (PSP), which includes the Passport Seva Programme (PSP V2.0), the Global Passport Seva Programme (GPSP V2.0), and the e-Passport, for citizens in India and those who are residing abroad.

The e-passport is a hybrid passport that combines both paper and electronic elements. It features an embedded radio frequency identification (RFID) chip and an antenna, which store and secure the holder's data in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards, the officials said.

The passport's critical information is printed on its data page as well as stored in the chip, thus making it harder to forge, they said.

Pilot testing of the e-passport began at Regional Passport Offices in Bhubaneswar and Nagpur in 2024.

After the successful pilot launch and requisite certifications, subsequently, it was rolled out at the remaining Regional Passport Offices across India in a phased manner and completed in May 2025.

"Around 80 lakh e-passports have been issued in India, till date, since the beginning of the rollout. And around 62,000 e-passports, till date, have been issued through Indian missions and posts abroad since June 2025," another senior MEA official said.

Uttar Pradesh govt to develop Sambhal into religious tourism hub

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Sambhal, which shot into the limelight last year after communal clashes, would be developed as a major centre of religious tourism on the lines of Kashi, Mathura and Ayodhya.

According to sources, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recently chaired a high-level meeting of senior officials and reviewed the ongoing developmental projects there. They said the CM directed the officials to expedite the works, which included restoration of ancient places of pilgrimage, wells and other religious heritage in Sambhal.

Officials from revenue, home, religious works, PWD, urban development and tourism departments participated in the meeting. The project will be undertaken in stages. In the first stage, over 50 places of religious importance and 19 wells would be restored. Local administration was also asked to prepare a time-bound strategy to attract tourists to Sambhal.

In the second stage, cultural centres, museums and events like light and sound shows would be in focus. "The idea is to showcase the religious and cultural heritage of Sambhal to the world," said an official.

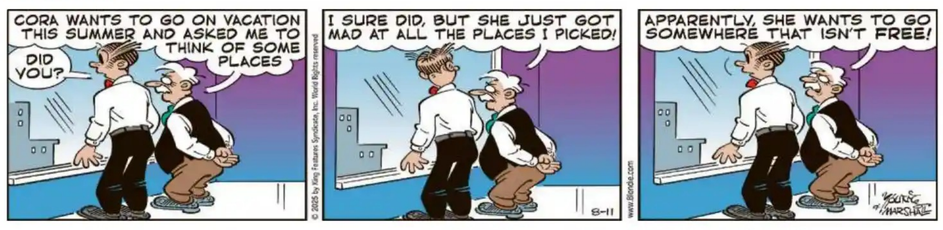
Infrastructural development of Sambhal would also be undertaken alongside, which will include the construction of roads, parking spaces and other public facilities, especially around the places of religious importance. Sources said the government would also prioritise restoration of the Mahishmati river under the Namami Gange Project.

On November 24 last year, violence during a court-mandated survey of the mosque left four people dead and several others injured. The Hindutva activists claim that the mosque was built after demolishing a Hindu Temple.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie


CORA WANTS TO GO ON VACATION THIS SUMMER AND ASKED ME TO THINK OF SOME PLACES
DID YOU?
I SURE DID, BUT SHE JUST GOT MAD AT ALL THE PLACES I PICKED!
APPARENTLY, SHE WANTS TO GO SOMEWHERE THAT ISN'T FREE!

Hagar The Horrible

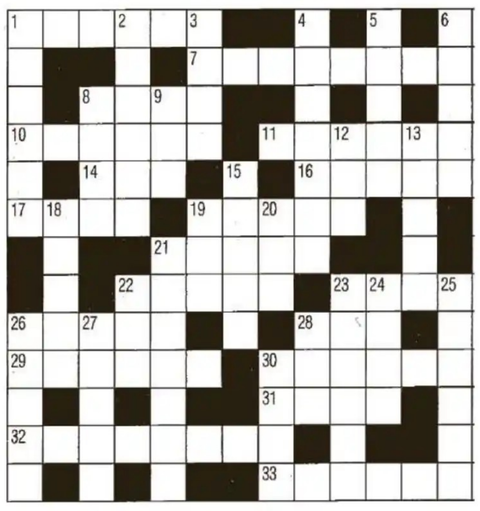
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

THANK YOU FOR TEACHING ME ABOUT FISHING TODAY, SALLY... I HAD FUN!
I EVEN WROTE HOME TO MY DAD, AND TOLD HIM THAT I CAUGHT A BLUE MARLIN...
GOOD GRIEF! HE'LL NEVER BELIEVE A STORY LIKE THAT!
HE'LL BELIEVE IT... HE WANTS ME TO BE HAPPY...

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12291



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Though innocent, said to be hunted? (6)
7 Animal making a six-footer run away (8)
8 She left a mug (4)
10 Can earthy word-play cause such laughter? (6)
11 Such discipline necessitates some restrictions (6)
14 It has a bridge and a mouth (3)
16 A bit of silliness in style (5)
17 Go wandering with an old Slav (4)
19 He goes only half a mile in a taxi (5)
21 Sounds like stone breaking (5)
22 Wonderfully watchful sugar refiner (5)
23 Insect or woolly-headed snake (4)
26 The pursuit of a cure for aches (5)
28 An American tin (3)
29 Wanted it to go with a piece of cheddar (6)
30 Harry the person at the wheel (6)
31 Besides, she's only diminutive (4)
32 Where to get refreshed or possibly hale on water! (8)
33 Backer in a boater? (6)

DOWN
1 The money we raised for a nut (6)
2 Did without the extra sad ending (6)
3 A piece of cake (4)
4 Larvae with ten legs (7)
5 He sculpted a redheaded god (5)
6 Trial games? (5)
8 Green fabric? (4)
9 As a home, a bit of a travesty? (3)
12 Had Adam a spare one? (3)
13 Hundreds of them are in circulation (5)
15 Having two heads, a month was named after him (5)
18 Rowing, perhaps, can lose a bit of weight (5)
19 Recognisable part of the works (3)
20 The French boy (3)
21 The highest position in forestry (7)
22 There's a tray for it (3)
23 Doctor apt to be told elementary facts (6)
24 Bet there's a theatre in Accident and Emergency! (4)
25 Carrier apt to be drunk? (6)
26 It has its leafy wrapper (5)
27 Longs for some paracetamol? (5)
28 Pass as a senior officer (3)
30 Look up repeatedly (4)

EASY

ACROSS
1 Spheres (6)
7 Cherish (8)
8 Secure from risk (4)
10 Shorebird (6)
11 Metallic element (6)
14 Boy's name (3)
16 Of the nose (5)
17 Biblical garden (4)
19 Wooden peg (5)
21 Restrict (5)
22 Cloth made of flax (5)
23 Vend (4)
26 Number (5)
28 Person's residence (3)
29 Foolishness (6)
30 Salty (6)
31 Horse's gait (4)
32 Enough, sufficient (8)
33 Larder (6)

DOWN
1 Thick oil (6)
2 Signal fire (6)
3 Let it stand (4)
4 Rifle attachment (7)
5 Contagious viral disease (5)
6 Oyster gem (5)
8 Painful (4)
9 Gave food to (3)
12 Chum (3)
13 Artist's stand (5)
15 Celestial body (5)
18 Unfashionable (5)
19 Racket (3)
20 Be victorious (3)
21 Syrup-like medicine (7)
22 Star sign (3)
23 Lounge (6)
24 Revise (4)
25 Room for manoeuvre (6)
26 Indian instrument (5)
27 Adder (5)
28 Standard (3)
30 Pace (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12290

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, H-a-bit 6, Hitch 9, Charter 10, St.-Ray 11, Roy-Al 12, Megan 13, Saluted 15, Bed 17, Plus 18, Adm-I-re 19, Stops 20, Hard-L-y 22, Soar (sore) 24, I-re 25, PLA-in-L-y 26, Scale 27, Sheik 28, S-pie-s 29, Rec-it-al 30, Trier 31, Y-E-ats.
DOWN: 2, Astral 3, Icarus 4, Thy 5, Armed 6, Heralds 7, Iron 8, Chaser 12, Meaty 13, Spahi 14, Lucre 15, Bi-son 16, Dear-y 18, Apple 19, Slacker 21, Archer 22, Sim-p-le 23, Albert 25, Plaid 26, Sire 28, Sa(LL)y.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Puppy 6, Cider 9, Lexicon 10, Areas 11, Royal 12, Scorn 13, Fatigue 15, Gel 17, Arid 18, Sphere 19, Fault 20, Tremor 22, Sear 24, Has 25, Bemuses 26, Steak 27, Datum 28, Pupil 29, Matador 30, Demon 31, Telly.
DOWN: 2, Uproar 3, Placid 4, Yes 5, Niece 6, Corrupt 7, In on 8, Eraser 12, Sugar 13, Faith 14, Times 15, Genes 16, Leers 18, Sleek 19, Footman 21, Ravage 22, Suture 23, Aerial 25, Banal 26, Sumo 28, Pot.

◆SU-DO-KU-6755◆

			2					
1				8		6	4	
6								9
	1				3		2	
4		8	5		9	1		6
	7		8				9	
3								7
	2	9		6				1
					4			

hard

9	3	8	1	2	5	7	4	6
7	4	6	8	3	9	2	1	5
1	2	5	7	4	6	3	9	8
6	7	4	3	5	1	9	8	2
5	1	9	2	7	8	4	6	3
3	8	2	6	9	4	5	7	1
2	6	3	4	1	7	8	5	9
8	9	7	5	6	2	1	3	4
4	5	1	9	8	3	6	2	7

SOLUTION TO 6754

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2025 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

R1	A1	O1	E1	J8	M3	D2	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
A1	E1	E1	K5	D2	D2	N1	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
U1	F4	Y4	U1	T1	L1	A1	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
G2	L1	G2	S1	E1	U1	R1	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 200-210
by JUDD
FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

P3	L1	U1	M3	P3			RACK 1 =	17
E1	N1	D2	A1	R1	C3	H4	RACK 2 =	63
S1	A1	X8	O1	N1	Y4		RACK 3 =	32
S1	I1	P3	H4	O1	N1	S1	RACK 4 =	70
							JUDD'S TOTAL	182

PAR SCORE 120-130

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

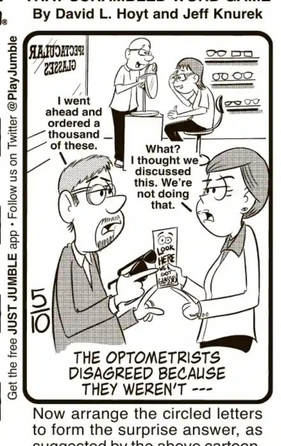
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

REEEI

FOYLT

VEEELN

SYAURG


I went ahead and ordered a thousand of these.
What? I thought we discussed this. We're not doing that.
THE OPTOMETRISTS DISAGREED BECAUSE THEY WEREN'T ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play.Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BLIMP AVIAN KARATE COMMON
Answer: After losing a game of "Operation" when the dog bumped her hand, she had — A BONE TO PICK

HITORI-3209

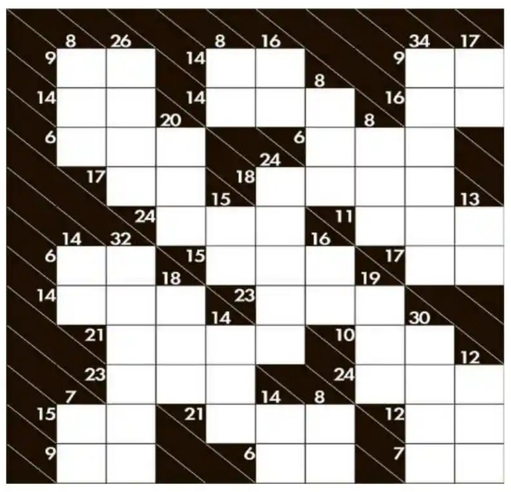
4	2	7	4	5	3	1	5
5	3	4	1	5	6	4	8
6	1	5	7	3	7	8	2
8	5	8	5	4	1	7	4
2	1	4	8	5	5	6	3
4	5	2	4	6	7	5	1
1	4	5	3	2	8	5	6
8	5	1	6	4	4	4	5

SOLUTION TO 3208

6	3	■	5	4	2	■	8
■	8	7	2	3	■	5	1
2	6	8	■	1	3	7	■
3	■	6	7	■	1	4	2
7	4	3	■	2	5	8	■
8	■	2	4	5	■	1	6
5	7	■	1	8	6	■	4
1	5	4	■	6	7	2	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3209



SOLUTION TO 3208

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3740

■		8			9		4	2
	5					■		
1	2	■				■		
5			■		■			
				■				
	8		■		■			1
		■	5			3		6
	9			6	1		■	
■			2		4	8	7	■

SOLUTION TO 3739

6	3	1	8	7	5	2	4	9
4	2	8	9	6	1	3	5	7
7	9	5	4	3	2	1	6	8
2	4	9	3	8	6	7	1	5
3	5	7	1	4	9	8	2	6
1	8	6	2	5	7	4	9	3
5	1	3	6	2	8	9	7	4
9	7	4	5	1	3	6	8	2
8	6	2	7	9	4	5	3	1

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Trump declines to rule out troops in Venezuela

WASHINGTON, REUTERS: President Donald Trump said on Monday he has not ruled out putting American forces on the ground in Venezuela, while expressing a willingness to hear directly from Nicolas Maduro regarding the Venezuelan leader's proposals to avert further military escalation.

Asked if he would rule out US troops on the ground in the South American country, Trump said: "No, I don't rule out that, I don't rule out anything."

Still, questioned if he would speak to Maduro directly, Trump told reporters at the White House: "I probably would talk to him, yeah. I talk to everybody."

Maduro, when asked about Trump's comments on Monday, said differences should be resolved through diplomacy and that he is willing to hold face-to-face talks with anyone interested.

"In the United States, whoever wants to talk with Venezuela will talk, face to face, without any problem," Maduro said on his weekly state television program.

The US has been waging a campaign of deadly strikes against suspected drug trafficking boats off the Venezuelan coast and the Pacific coast of Latin America.

UNSC backs Trump's Gaza Plan, authorises stabilisation force

US President hails 'historic' UN vote

UNITED NATIONS, PTI

The UN Security Council has adopted a draft resolution endorsing US President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan and authorising the establishment of an international stabilisation force in the enclave, with the American leader describing it as a "moment of true historic proportion".

The US-drafted resolution was adopted in the 15-nation Council on Monday evening with 13 votes in favour, none against, and abstentions by China and Russia. It endorsed Trump's 'Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict' announced on September 29, which envisions Gaza as a "deradicalised terror-free zone that does not pose a threat to its neighbours" and is rebuilt for the benefit of its population.

The resolution also welcomed the establishment of a 'Board of Peace', described as a "transitional administration" with international legal personality that will set the framework and coordinate funding for Gaza's reconstruction under the plan.

Trump welcomed the Council's adoption of the resolution, describing it as "a moment of true historic proportion". "It will be remembered as one of the biggest approvals in the History of the United Nations, will lead to further Peace all over the World," he wrote. Trump congratulated the "world" on the "incredible vote" in the Council that acknowledged and endorsed the Board of Peace. Trump said he will chair the Board, which will "include the most powerful and respected Leaders throughout the world".

The vote comes a day before Trump is scheduled to host Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman at the White House. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' spokesperson Stephane Dujarric, in a statement, said the adoption of the resolution on Gaza is an "important step" in the consolidation of the ceasefire, urging all parties to abide by it. Guterres commended the continued diplomatic efforts of Egypt, Qatar, Turkiye, the US, and regional states and underlined the importance of moving towards the second phase of the US plan, leading to a political process aimed at achieving a two-state solution.

"It is essential now to translate the diplomatic momentum into concrete and urgently needed steps on the ground," the UN statement said, adding that the organisation is committed to scaling up humanitarian aid and supporting efforts to advance the next phase of the ceasefire.

US Ambassador to the United Nations Michael Waltz votes in favour for a resolution at the United Nations Security Council meeting in New York City on Monday. REUTERS

VARSEN A SHAHIN
Palestine foreign minister

"The UN resolution is the first step in a long road towards peace. That step was needed because we could not embark on anything else before we had a ceasefire.

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU
Israeli prime minister

"It will bring peace and prosperity as it insists upon full demilitarisation, disarmament and deradicalisation of Gaza.

THE PEACE PLAN

- **Creation of a Board of Peace, chaired by Trump, to act as a transitional administration.**
- Deployment of an International Stabilisation Force to secure the area, dismantle military infrastructure and ensure Gaza becomes a "deradicalised terror-free zone."
- **Hamas and other militant groups to decommission weapons and cease all military operations.**
- It also suggests a future pathway to Palestinian self-determination and a two-state solution.

Trump defends Saudi prince over Khashoggi murder

WASHINGTON, AFP

Donald Trump defended Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the murder of a journalist and hailed a $1 trillion investment pledge Tuesday as the US President extended a lavish welcome at the White House.

Trump moved to consolidate his close relationship with the de facto Saudi leader, hosting a parade of soldiers on horseback and a military flypast featuring F-35 jets that he said Washington would soon sell to Riyadh.

Opening their White House meeting with praise for the prince's "incredible" human rights record, Trump dismissed the 2018 killing of Jamal Khashoggi, saying "things happened" and calling the dead journalist "extremely controversial." Trump also raged at a reporter, accusing her of "embarrassing" the prince with her questions over the murder — which US intelligence has suggested the prince approved — and saying the visiting royal knew "nothing about it."

The Saudi prince responded by saying the murder of Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul was a "huge mistake," while insisting it had been fully investigated. The heir to the throne then delighted Trump by announcing that he was increasing the $600 billion investment he promised in May. A grinning Trump asked him to confirm the figure, to which the Saudi royal replied: "Definitely."

Trump pulled out all the stops for the Saudi prince, giving him treatment normally reserved for a state visit to the White House, despite the fact that he is not a head of state. Trump said the US would sell F-35 stealth fighter jets to Saudi Arabia in a similar arrangement it has with Israel.

'To normalise ties with Israel soon'

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said on Tuesday his country wanted to normalise relations with Israel through US President Donald Trump's Abraham Accords, but first needed a "clear path" to Palestinian statehood, AFP reports from Washington. "We want to be part of the Abraham Accords. But we want also to be sure that we secure a clear path of two-state solution," the prince said.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman with US President Donald Trump at the White House on Tuesday. REUTERS

UK toughens asylum system with radical overhaul

Home secretary defends strict system modelled on Denmark

LONDON, AFP

The UK government on Monday unveiled far-reaching changes to its asylum system, including drastically reducing protections for refugees and their children, seeking to stem a wave of irregular migrants which has fuelled rising anger on the far-right.

Under the new proposals, the government will also threaten visa bans for countries that refuse to take back irregular migrants. The plans have been dubbed by the centre-left Labour government as the "most sweeping reforms to tackle irregular migration in modern times".

The Home Secretary, Shabana Mahmood, told lawmakers the reforms — modelled on Denmark's strict asylum system — would discourage migrants from crossing the Channel from France on small boats. Describing the current system as "out of control and unfair", she said it was an "uncomfortable truth" that the UK's generous asylum offer, compared to other European countries, was acting as a pull factor.

"The pace and scale of change have destabilised communities. It is making our country a more divided place," she said. Under the reforms, refugee status will become temporary and reviewed every 30 months. Refugees will be forced to return to their home countries once those are deemed safe. They will also need to wait for 20 years, instead of the current five, before they can apply for permanent residency.

"We are obliged to offer sanctuary to those who would be in danger if they returned to their country of origin. However, should the regime change in their home country, our approach should change too," the Government said in a statement earlier on Monday.

Britain's Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood makes a statement on asylum in Parliament on Monday. AFP

STRINGENT CONTROL

- **Refugee status will be made temporary, reviewed every 30 months, and they will be forced to return home when their country is deemed safe.**
- Wait time for refugees to apply for permanent residency extended from five to 20 years.
- **Harder for irregular migrants and foreign criminals to use EU rights law to stop their deportation.**

Pichai warns of AI bubble bursts

SAN FRANCISCO, AFP

The head of Google's parent company, Alphabet, warned that every company would be impacted if the AI bubble were to burst, in an interview with the BBC.

Sundar Pichai acknowledged there was "irrationality" behind the boom in artificial intelligence investment, which has fueled a tech rally this year. But fears that the AI bubble could burst have led to a selloff, sending global stock markets tumbling in recent months.

Asked if Google would be impacted by the AI bubble bursting, Pichai told the BBC: "I think no company is going to be immune, including us." The interview covered long-standing concerns surrounding AI, including energy needs, reducing climate targets, accuracy and the impact of AI on jobs.

Pichai warned of the "immense" energy requirements of AI, which accounted for 1.5 per cent of global electricity consumption last year, according to the International Energy Agency.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, देवघर

पुनः अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

पुनः ई– निविदा सूचना संख्या – RDD/SD/DEOGHAR/15/RE3/2025-26 (5th call)

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :

क्र० सं० एवं ग्रुप सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	देवघर जिला अन्तर्गत पालोजोरी प्रखंड के ग्राम– असहना, पो0– डुमरिया में मख्दुमियॉ एजुकेशनल एण्ड वेलफेयर ट्रस्ट अन्तर्गत दारूल उलूम गुलशने फातमा का छात्रावास निर्माण कार्य।	22196445.00	444000.00	10000.00	12 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – **19.11.2025**
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक **20.11.2025** से दिनांक **29.11.2025** को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, देवघर
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – **01.12.2025** अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, देवघर
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – **6432350966** (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल **Online Mode** द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, देवघर

PR 366350 Rural Development(25-26)#D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण नियोजन कार्यक्रम, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

–: अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना :–

ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या–**EE/NREP/CHAIBASA/09 /2025-26 (DMFT मद)**

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :–

क्र० सं०	प्रखण्ड	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	नोवामुण्डी	नोवामुण्डी प्रखण्ड के कादाजामदा पंचायत के ग्राम –कदाजामदा टोला उलीहातु से बायहातु मुख्य सड़क तक पी0सी0सी0 पथ निर्माण।	8802700.00	176500.00	10,000.00	06 माह
2	नोवामुण्डी	नोवामुण्डी प्रखण्ड के दुधबिला पंचायत के ग्राम – ताडेया के मुख्य सड़क से ग्वाला टोली होते श्मशान घाट तक पी0सी0सी0 पथ निर्माण।	15905800.00	318500.00	10,000.00	06 माह
3	मनोहरपुर	मनोहरपुर प्रखण्ड के बरगा पंचायत के महुलडीहा से गोविंदपुर तक पी0सी0सी0 पथ निर्माण।	17230600	345000.00	10,000.00	06 माह
4	मनोहरपुर	मनोहरपुर प्रखण्ड के गंगदा पंचायत के ग्राम कुम्बिया PWD सड़क से लेबेया सुरीन घर होते हुए पुरती टोला तक पी0सी0सी0 पथ निर्माण।	18126800	363000.00	10,000.00	06 माह
5	जगन्नाथपुर	जगन्नाथपुर प्रखण्ड के भवनगॉव पंचायत के ग्राम – ढीरपाई टोला तिलाईपी से बाईहातु तक पी0सी0सी0 पथ निर्माण।	22849400.00	457000.00	10,000.00	06 माह
6	आनन्दपुर	आनन्दपुर प्रखण्ड के बिन्जु पंचायत के ग्राम – डोडरोबारू मेन रोड से चर्च होते हुए बस्ती तक पी0सी0सी0 पथ निर्माण।	39149400.00	783000.00	10,000.00	06 माह

1 जिला का वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि– **24.11.2025** से **04.12.2025**
2 ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय–दिनांक **04.12.2025** तक समय अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक
3 ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान–कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण नियोजन कार्यक्रम,पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।
4 ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – **06.12.2025** अपराह्न **05** बजे।
5 ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :–कार्यपालक अभियंता, राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण नियोजन कार्यक्रम, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।
6 ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं०– **8210206585** (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
7 परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है, तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
8 सरकार के संयुक्त सचिव ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग झारखण्ड सरकार राँची के पत्रांक 02(नि०नि०–17)–251 / 23 ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग 3130(अनु०), राँची, दिनांक 09.10.2023 द्वारा दिये गये निदेश के अनुपालन में **सभी कागजात के साथ, निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि** Online Mode **द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।**
9 निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी।अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाब देही आपकी होगी।
10 ग्रामीण विकास विभाग (ग्रामीण कार्य मामले) झारखण्ड, पथ निर्माण विभाग एवं भवन निर्माण विभाग झारखण्ड के अन्तर्गत पंजीकृत समुचित श्रेणी के संवेदक भाग ले सकेगें
11 जिला दण्डाधिकारी–सह–उपायुक्त, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा के पत्रांक 1679 दिनाँक 23.12.2022 के अलोक निविदा डालने के समय चाईबासा जिला अन्तर्गत किसी भी प्रमण्डल / विभाग द्वारा आवंटित काय एकरारित अवधि बीत के बाद लंबित नहीं होने संबंधित शपथ पत्र देना होगा। कार्य लंबित पाये जाने पर उनका निविदा स्वतः रद्ध माना जाएगा ।
12 निविदा खोलने की तिथि से 05(पाँच) दिनों के अंदर निविदाता द्वारा अपनी आपत्ति / दावा दर्ज करायें अन्यथा अवधि बीतने के पश्चात कोई भी आपत्ति / दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।
13. बिना कारण बताये किसी भी समय निविदा को रद्द करने का अधिकार अद्योहस्ताक्षरी को सुरक्षित रहेगा।
14. जिस संवेदक का कार्य लंबित है, उनका कार्य आवंटन नहीं किया जायेगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचनापट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है

कार्यपालक अभियंता
राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण नियोजन कार्यक्रम
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

PR 366393 West Singhbhum(25-26)#D

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. SUR-N-T-2025-26-25. Date: 18.11.2025. DRM(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works:- **Name of work with its locality:** Provision of MSDAC as Dual detection at Wadi jn and Solapur station in Solapur Division of Central Railway. **Approximate cost of the work:** ₹ 15,62,85,667.11/-. **Cost of the tender form:** Nil. **Earnest money to be deposited:** ₹ 9,31,400/-. **Complection period of the work:** 12 Months. **Date & Time of Closing of tender: 12.12.2025** after **15.30** hrs. The details are available in ireps website. Corrigendum/amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website, Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in** The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**

Akar/Sur-71

DRM - S & T Branch
CR, Solapur

Keep your animals away from railway lines

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. SUR-N-T-2025-26-24. Date: 18.11.2025. DRM(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works:- **Name of work with its locality:** Upgradation and Enhancement of Earthing at S&T installations with provision of Surge protection devices & bonding of earth connections in Solapur Division of Central Railway. **Approximate cost of the work:** ₹ 4,65,94,816.74/-. **Cost of the tender form:** Nil. **Earnest money to be deposited:** ₹ 3,83,000/-. **Complection period of the work:** 12 Months. **Date & Time of Closing of tender: 10.12.2025** after **15.30** hrs. The details are available in ireps website. Corrigendum/amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website, Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in** The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**

Akar/Sur-72

DRM - S & T Branch
CR, Solapur

Keep your animals away from railway lines

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No: SGW-S-203-SF-610660-25 dated 17.11.2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Chief Workshop Manager, Signal and Telecommunication Workshop, Podanur, Coimbatore – 641023, invites E-Tender for the following works as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** Tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender need to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted. The Bid Security deposit should be made through online payment gateway or through available modes as mentioned in Tender document.

1	Name of the Work	Manufacture and supply of Safety fasteners for Protection Cover LH & RH of Ground Connection (220mm Stroke) IRS Point Machine (Qty – 3425 Sets)
2	Approximate cost of the work	Rs.1,07,19,081.65/- Including GST @ 18%
3	Earnest money to be deposited	Rs. 2,03,600/-
4	Completion period of work	90 Days
5	Date and time of closing of tender	15:00 Hrs of 09.12.2025
6	Website particulars	**https://www.ireps.gov.in**

For further details, visit the office of the Chief Workshop Manager, Signal and Telecommunication Workshop, Podanur, Coimbatore – 641023.

Dy.CSTE/S&T/PTJ,
Chief Workshop Manager, S&T Workshop, Podanur

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, डालटनगंज

शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय द्वारा निर्गत कोटेशन आमंत्रण सूचना, जिसका पी0आर0 नं0– PR 365289 Building(25-26)_D है को अपरिहार्य कारणों से कोटेशन को तिथि परिवर्तित करते हुए निम्नलिखित नई तिथि पढ़ा जाय :–

1. कोटेशन विक्री की तिथि एवं समय– 26.11.2025 को पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे से अपराह्न 01:00 बजे तक।
2. मुहरबंद लिफाफा कोटेशन प्राप्त की तिथि एवं समय–27.11.2025 को पूर्वाह्न 01:00 बजे से अपराह्न 03:00 बजे तक।
2. मुहरबंद लिफाफा कोटेशन खोलने की तिथि एवं समय– 27.11.2025 को 03:30 बजे अपराह्न से

शेष शर्ते यथावत रहेंगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
भवन प्रमण्डल, डालटनगंज

PR 366273 Building(25-26).D

SOCIAL TRENDS

'Parasocial' crowned word of 2025

LONDON, AFP

Do you feel a deep bond with pop stars like Taylor Swift or Lily Allen — even though you've never met them?

If you do, then your behaviour is "parasocial" and bang on trend according to the Cambridge Dictionary, which on Tuesday unveiled the adjective as its word of the year for 2025. Lexicographers picked it in a year they said was marked by interest in the one-sided parasocial relationships that people form with celebrities, influencers and AI chatbots. Parasocial is defined as "involving or relating to a connection that someone feels between themselves and a famous person they do not know".

The term dates back to 1956, when two University of Chicago sociologists noted television viewers developing parasocial relationships with television personalities, who they viewed in the same way as close friends or family.

As artificial intelligence becomes an ever-increasing part of people's lives, "slop", which gets an updated definition, refers to low-quality AI-generated content inundating the internet. Other new entrants are "skibidi", "delulu" and "tradwife".

The slang term "skibidi" is described as having different meanings such as cool or bad. But it can also be used with no real meaning or as a joke, or in phrases such as: "What the skibidi are you doing?" "Delulu" is said to be a play on the word delusional.

"Tradwife" is short for traditional wife, meaning a "married woman, especially one who posts on social media, who stays at home doing cooking, cleaning".

Psychologists suggest millions of fans who relate to Taylor Swift's songs often develop "parasocial" bonds with the star. AFP FILE

'Digital Gridlock' as Cloudflare issue hits major platforms

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: A widely used Internet infrastructure company said that it has largely resolved an issue that led to outages impacting users of platforms ranging from ChatGPT and the online game, "League of Legends," to the New Jersey Transit system early Tuesday.

At 10:40 am EST, Cloudflare said its engineers were still mitigating some lingering issues after they posted a fix for the outage, but that they were monitoring for any further problems.

Others platforms that experienced outages Tuesday included the social media site X, Shopify, Dropbox, Coinbase, and the Moody's credit ratings service. Moody's website displayed an Error Code 500 and instructed individuals to visit Cloudflare's website for more information.

New Jersey Transit said parts of its digital services including njtransit.com, may be temporarily unavailable or slow to load.

16 VCs offer Rs 430 cr for deep tech, AI startups

INVESTING IN FUTURE INNOVATION

Rs 430 cr
Allocation by 16 VCs collectively to deep tech and Artificial Intelligence startups.

Rs 663 cr
Invsetment by the government

Rs 90 cr
Budget outlay by the government to set up 6 Centres of Excellence across state clusters

Govt eyes industry-academia collaboration in sectors like software, biotech, deftronics, semiconductors, quantum, AI/ML, robotics, blockchain and space tech

Govt to invest about Rs 663 cr; joint fund to exceed Rs 1k cr

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge on Tuesday said that as many as 16 venture capital funds will collectively allocate Rs 430 crore to deep tech and Artificial Intelligence (AI) startups.

"The government is investing about Rs 663 crore, and so collectively there will be a joint fund exceeding Rs 1,000 crore," he added.

At the Future Makers Conclave to be held during the 28th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 on Thursday, the government will allocate funds to startups.

"At the Future Makers Conclave, 143 winners under the 'Elevate' startup programme will be announced and the minimum fund size will begin from Rs 2 crore, and go up to Rs 45 crore," he said.

Earlier, the minister said the Rs 600-crore fund also includes Rs 75 crore through the KITVEN fund for equity-based investments in deep tech and AI startups, with funding between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 2 crore.

The government also plans to establish six Centres of Excellence (CoEs) across state clusters, with a budget outlay of Rs 90 crore to drive R&D, talent development, and industry-academia collaboration in sectors like software, biotech, deftronics, semiconductors, quantum, AI/ML, robotics, blockchain and space tech, the minister said.

At a session held as part of the 28th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025, the minister stressed on the need to create solid skills and CoEs to encourage talent.

Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan said when it comes to talent, India has the largest talent base. "The country should focus on product-led growth," he said, adding that IT professionals need to think about collaborating across the value-chain startups and research ecosystem.

Deep domain areas

Gopalakrishnan said jobs would continue to evolve, and "we have to make sure that we stay relevant".

Highlighting the rise of spacetech startups and autonomous systems in defence, Accel India Founding Partner Prashanth Prakash said, "Just like 10-minute deliveries, we need to build similar capabilities in deep domain areas."

(From left) IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Industries Minister MB Patil, and Biocon Founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw launch AI-ready computer KEO at the 28th Edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH HG

We've enough talent in space tech: Somanath

BENGALURU, DHNS: There is no shortage of talent in India, especially in space technology. "We have enough and more talent here," former Chairman of ISRO S Somanath said on Tuesday.

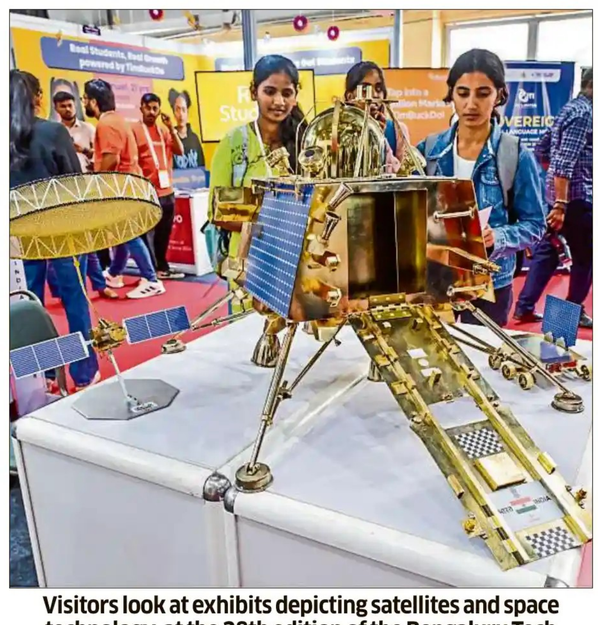
Speaking at a session 'Pioneering the Next Decade: Building India's Frontier Tech Future', he said top minds are returning to India and that they need a similar environment to flourish.

Panellists, including Fabheads Automation Founder and CEO Dhinesh Kanagaraj and VC fund Accel's Prashanth Prakash, spoke about technologies that are shaping the next wave of breakthrough innovation. Prakash highlighted the shift in VC attitude, where deep tech is now strategically valued for its defensibility and long-term, IP-driven models across aerospace, semiconductors, and robotics.

They also said the country must create better institutional environments to attract global Indian talent back home — similar to China's approach — but the driver isn't only money; it is ecosystem strength and institutional support.

Somanath added that deep tech is a strategic necessity for self-reliance due to global disruptions, stressing the immense opportunity in cross-disciplinary convergence and the strength of the country's engineering talent base.

At a session on Semiconductor Manufacturing and Ecosystem Development, panellists highlighted the rapid progress in India, particularly in the ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging) space, and the momentum toward a complete domestic ecosystem.



Visitors look at exhibits depicting satellites and space technology, at the 28th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH HG

India's biotechnology sector to reach $1.2 trillion by 2047, say experts

BENGALURU DHNS: Biocon Founder and Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw on Tuesday, speaking about the current scenario and future of biotech in the country, said, "Once in a generation, India has the opportunity to push the global frontiers in biotechnology, instead of following other nations."

She was speaking at a session at the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025, with the healthcare sector emerging as one of the dominant themes, as experts highlighted how AI, advanced technologies are reshaping personalised medicine and therapeutics, and the growth of biotechnology in India. The experts also stressed that the biotechnology sector in India has grown from $86 billion in 2020, to $165 billion in 2025, and is estimated to reach $1.2 trillion by 2047.

The next question in biotechnology's future is making it inclusive, sustainable and globally competitive, Kiran said, adding, "While building the India AI mission, our top priority should be making it Green AI and Ethical AI. We must build a sovereign AI stack."

Highlighting the issues in the sector, Kiran said, "There are only 250 researchers for a million and biotech parks only employ people in thousands when they should be doing it in ten-thousands. Sovereign gene database, shared wet labs and large-scale manufactures are needed."

Niti Ayog Distinguished Fellow Debjani Ghosh said there are four revolutions that will change the shape of the future of the tech revolution: the cognitive revolution, biology revolution, compute revolution and energy revolution.

Another experts panel moderated by CEO and Director of C-Camp Dr Taslimarif Saiyed spoke about attracting long-term investments to startups in the healthcare sector. The experts opined that the people aspiring for fundings should be flexible, persevering, and also know when to reroute their ideas for better opportunities.

'No hiatus in relations; 'good news' on India-US trade deal may come soon'

Goyal says both countries committed to expanding trade and commerce

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal.

The proposed trade agreement between India and the United States will be signed once the two sides agree on terms which are fair and balanced, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday.

"Whenever the deal is fair, equitable and balanced, you will hear the good news," Goyal told reporters, when asked about the progress on the India-US trade deal, which the two sides have been negotiating since March.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington in February this year, India and the US had agreed to sign a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by fall of 2025. The negotiations were kicked off in March. So far six rounds of talks have been held.

Uncertainty loomed large over the deal after the Trump administration imposed a steep 50% tariff on import of majority of items from India. However, recent comments from both sides indicate positive progress on the negotiations.

Speaking at an event organised by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce here, Goyal said trade negotiations are inherently complex and must reflect the needs and sensitivities of key domestic sectors, especially farmers, fishermen and small industries.

"I don't see any reason to be very worried. I don't believe there is any hiatus in the relationship. It continues to be very important, very strategic for both the countries," the minister added.

Goyal claimed that the US views India as a trusted partner, and both countries remain committed to expanding trade and commerce. "We stand on very strong pillars of democracy, diversity and shared commitment to development. The story of India-US relations can be described as that of two trusted partners working for shared prosperity, not only of both countries, but of the entire world," he said.

Referring to the recent announcements about a 10-year defence agreement and India's decision to purchase LPG from the US, Goyal said there is no pause or hiatus in the bilateral relations of the two countries, and the partnership is enduring and growing.

Bank fraud: SC notice to Centre, CBI, ED & Anil Ambani

NEW DELHI DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notice to the Centre, CBI, and ED on a PIL by former government secretary EAS Sarma, for a court-monitored probe into the alleged large-scale bank fraud perpetrated by Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG), its Chairman Anil Ambani, Reliance Communications (RCom), and related entities.

Anil Ambani

A bench of Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran heard advocate Prashant Bhushan, on behalf of Sarma, and sought replies within three weeks on allegations of bank fraud worth Rs 20,000 crore.

The plea sought court directions for the constitution of a special investigation team comprising officers from the CBI and the ED to conduct a thorough, impartial, and time-bound investigation into the alleged bank fraud. It also sought investigation into the affairs of the ADAG, its promoters, directors, and connected entities be monitored by the top court, so as to ensure a fair, independent, and comprehensive probe which is free from external influences.

FM holds meet with industry stakeholders on next Budget

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the fourth pre-Budget consultation with stakeholders from the capital markets in New Delhi on Tuesday. Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary is also seen. PTI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday met representatives from different sectors, including manufacturing, capital markets and startups, to seek their views for the upcoming budget, which is likely to be presented on February 1 next year.

Top executives of several companies and heads of industry bodies, including CII President Rajiv Memani, Assocham President Nirmal Kumar Minda, and FICCI Vice-President Vijay Sankar, attended the meeting focused on manufacturing.

The meeting was also attended by Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, Department of Economic Affairs Secretary Anuradha Thakur, and Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran, the Union Finance Ministry said in a post on X.

Representatives from BSE, Multi-Commodity Exchange, Association of Mutual Funds in India, Association of Registered Investment Advisers, and Commodity Participants Association of India participated in the meeting focused on the issues related to capital markets.

According to sources, the capital markets representatives pitched for reductions in transaction tax and measures to further deepen the financial markets.

The representatives suggested that securities transaction tax (STT), which is levied on every purchase and sale of securities that are listed on the recognised stock exchanges, should be lowered.

The industry representatives also pitched for aligning short-term dividend tax for domestic investors with the NRI rate. Non-resident Indians (NRIs) pay 20% tax on short-term dividends, while domestic investors face up to 42% tax.

BoAt co-founder Aman Gupta, eVidyaloka chairperson Ravichandran V, founders and top executives of other startups attended the meeting focused on discussing the issues related to the country's startup ecosystem.

Apple India reports 16% rise in profit

NEW DELHI, PTI: iPhone-maker Apple India has reported a 16% rise in profit to Rs 3,196 crore in the financial year ended March 2025, according to the company's regulatory filing shared by market intelligence firm Tofler. The company had posted a profit of Rs 2,745.71 crore in the the previous financial year.

Total revenue increased by 18% to Rs 79,378 crore during the reported year, from Rs 67,121.61 crore in FY24.

"Apple India reported its revenues for fiscal 2024-25 as Rs 79,378 crore, an 18% jump since the last financial year. Total expenses for the fiscal were reported as Rs 75,191 crore," Tofler said.

The revenue from operations rose 18.48% to Rs 79,060.51 crore in FY25, from Rs 66,727.73 crore last fiscal.

'Need to develop air cargo sector'

NEW DELHI, PTI: Highlighting the growth potential of India's civil aviation space, Union minister K Rammohan Naidu on Tuesday pitched for more freighters and cargo-centric airports to tap air cargo opportunities.

India is among the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets and airlines are expanding their fleets to meet rising air traffic demand. Belly cargo movements is also on the rise. Addressing the Global Aviation & Air Cargo Conclave 2025 here, the minister said Indian carriers should explore having freighters as air cargo is also a significant revenue contributor.

In the US, there are over 200 dedicated aircraft freighters, whereas there are just 17 registered freighters in India, he said.

ICRA pegs GDP growth at 7% for September quarter

NEW DELHI, PTI: Rating agency ICRA on Tuesday projected GDP growth to moderate in the July-September period of FY26 to 7%, from 7.8% in the previous quarter, amid lower government spending.

ICRA said while the services and agriculture sectors would lose some momentum in the second quarter, industrial performance would be strong propelled by manufacturing, construction and favourable base effects. This is expected to underpin the quarter's economic activity.

The Indian economy had expanded 5.6% in the Q2 (July-September) of 2024-25 fiscal.

BREWING BUSINESS

Coffee Board sets 2047 deadline to double production to 7 lakh tonnes

MAHESH KULKARNI
CHIKKAMAGALURU, DHNS

The Coffee Board of India has set an ambitious target of doubling coffee production in the country to 7 lakh tonnes by 2047, from the 3.5 lakh tonnes at present.

The share of specialty coffee will be 15% of the total proposed production, said Coffee Board Chairman MJ Dinesh, adding that as part of this target, the board has drawn up an action plan for implementation over the next five years, starting 2026-27.

Addressing members of the Karnataka Planters Association (KPA) here on Tuesday, Dinesh said, "The Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) under the Coffee Board will soon release three new high-yielding, pest-resistant coffee varieties for cultivation across the state. The CCRI is celebrating its centenary year this month and to mark the occasion, the new varieties will be released."

Founded in 1925, CCRI has developed a coffee germplasm collection with 400 varieties. In the last hundred years, it has released 13 Arabica varieties and three Robusta varieties for cultivation in the state, he shared.

"The target can be achieved in multiple ways. We have to go for area expansion, as well as improving the productivity of the existing plantations. About 1 lakh hectares of new area is being added under coffee cultivation in non-traditional areas such as Odisha. Nagaland will also be adding a new area under coffee. Currently, about 4 lakh hectares is cultivated for growing coffee," Dinesh told *DH*.

India's coffee production stands at 3.5 lakh tonnes at present.

"The productivity can be enhanced by addressing important elements in the coffee chain, from soil to marketing, productivity, water, and nutrients. We have to educate growers to use appropriate nutrients so that their productivity increases," he said.

The Coffee Board aims to spend an average Rs 300 crore per annum to take up various activities over the next five years. "We will be discussing with the various stakeholders to come out with a suitable action plan," he added.

Stating that the Board is ready to subsidise the weeding machine, Dinesh told the growers to make use of it.

Inaugurating the 67th annual general meeting of KPA here, Energy Minister KJ George advised coffee planters to learn a lesson from the tribal coffee growers of Araku Valley in Andhra Pradesh, who have popularised their coffee under the 'Araku' brand. "The fragmentation of coffee growers in Karnataka is preventing them from coming out with a common brand," he said.

Bhaskar Bhat, Director of Tata Sons, and former MD of Titan Ltd, asked growers to focus on the domestic market, which has a large and young aspiring population ready to consume premium and specialty coffee, instead of worrying about exporting to Europe or America. "The consumption in Europe is not growing as much as in India, where the young population with a growing income is now looking to consume more and more specialty coffee and premium products," he said.

KPA Chairman Arvind Rao urged the government to set up a separate directorate for plantation crops on the model of Kerala, so as to address the concerns of the sector. Currently, planters run around between the departments of labour, industries and commerce, etc. to have their issues addressed.

CRICKET RANJI TROPHY

Shreyas, Shikhar spin a massive win for Karnataka

Determined hosts hammer Chandigarh by an innings and 185 runs

BENGALURU, DHNS

Senior spinner Shreyas Gopal laid the foundation with a dazzling display in the first innings before his junior colleague Shikhar Shetty completed the formalities with a coming-of-age performance in the second as dominant Karnataka wrapped up a crushing win over hapless Chandigarh in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group B clash in Hubballi on Tuesday.

The 32-year-old leg-spinner Shreyas (7/73), who had already bagged three wickets on Monday to leave Chandigarh's response to Karnataka's mammoth first innings total of 547/8 declared in a wreck, added four more scalps on Tuesday at the KSCA Stadium that saw the visitors being bundled out for 222 in 63.2 overs.

Mayank Agarwal had no hesitation in asking Chandigarh to follow-on and 20-year-old left-arm orthodox spinner vindicated his skipper's choice with a superb 5/61 -- his maiden five-wicket haul in just his third match -- as Karnataka bowled out the visitors for 140 in 33.5 overs to complete an innings and 185-run win.

This was Karnataka's second innings victory in three games and the eight-time champions, hoping to end a decade-long wait for the coveted Ranji Trophy, roared to the top of the table with 21 points from 5 games. Maharashtra, who inflicted an innings and 92-run defeat on Punjab, are second on 18 points.

Karnataka red-ball team will now take a two-month break for limited-overs contests along with the rest of the teams before taking on Madhya Pradesh in Bengaluru from January 22-26, 2026 for their penultimate Group B clash. Their final match is against Punjab in New Chandigarh.

Resuming on 72/4, the odds were stacked against Chandigarh despite skipper Manan Vohra being in the middle. The seasoned performer waged a lone fight with a gritty 106 not out off 161 balls but with hardly any of his team-mates offering a fight amidst an inspired bowling from Shreyas, their goose was cooked.

In fact, Chandigarh's slide started from the very first ball of the day when Shreyas trapped Ankit Kaushik lbw. Shreyas was at it again when he had Rajangad Bawa caught behind to reduce Chandigarh to 104/6. Just when Shreyas thought he could run over Chandigarh, Gaurav Puri (32) defied Karnataka with an 84-run alliance with Vohra.

Shikhar (2/43) broke their partnership in the 54th over after which Shreyas delivered two quick strikes while the former castled Nishunk Birla to put an end to Chandigarh's late-order resistance.

Karnataka spinners Shikhar Shetty (left) and Shreyas Gopal were star performers in the hosts' crushing win over Chandigarh in their Ranji Trophy clash at the KSCA Stadium in Hubballi on Tuesday. DH PHOTOS/ GOVINDRAJ JAVALI

Ranji points table

Elite Group B	M	W	L	D	Points
Karnataka	5	2	0	3	21
Maharashtra	5	2	0	3	18
Madhya Pradesh	4	1	0	3	15
Goa	4	1	1	2	11
Punjab	5	1	1	3	11
Saurashtra	4	0	0	4	6
Kerala	4	0	1	3	5
Chandigarh	5	0	4	1	1

SCOREBOARD

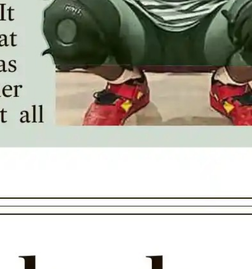
KARNATAKA (I Innings): 547/8 decl
CHANDIGARH (I Innings, O/n: 72/4): Shivam Bhambri b Shreyas 16 (30b, 2x4), Arjun Azad b Mohsin 32 (29b, 3x4, 1x6), Vishu Kashyap lbw Shreyas 5 (14b), Manan Vohra (not out) 106 (161b, 12x4, 1x6), Nikhil Thakur c Shrijith b Shreyas 1 (11b), Ankit Kaushik lbw Shreyas 0 (1b), Raj Bawa c Shrijith b Shreyas 10 (42b, 1x4), Gaurav Puri b Shikhar 32 (62b, 6x4), Taranpreet Singh c Aneesh b Shreyas 7 (12b, 1x4), Jagjit Singh lbw Shreyas 0 (6b), Nishunk Birla b Shikhar 9 (12b). Extras (B-4) 4. **TOTAL (all out, 63.2 overs) 222.**
Fall of wickets: 1-41 (Azad), 2-53 (Bhambri), 3-58 (Kashyap), 4-72 (Thakur), 5-72 (Kaushik), 6-104 (Bawa), 7-188 (Puri), 8-199 (Taranpreet), 9-201 (Jagjit).
Bowling: Vidwath Kaverappa 5-1-14-0, Vidyadhar Patil 7-2-34-0, Mohsin Khan 12-0-54-1, Shreyas Gopal 23-2-73-7, Shikhar Shetty 16.2-3-43.
CHANDIGARH (II Innings, f/o): Shivam Bhambri c Smaran b Shikhar 43 (47b, 4x4, 2x6), c Mohsin Khan b Kaverappa 0 (8b), Nikhil Thakur lbw Shreyas 19 (59b, 2x4), Manan Vohra c Smaran b Shikhar 6 (22b), Ankit Kaushik c Smaran b Shikhar 0 (6b), Raj Bawa (run out) 27 (31b, 3x4, 2x6), Gaurav Puri c Manohar b Shikhar 13 (8b, 3x4), Taranpreet Singh c Nair b Shreyas 4 (8b, 1x4), Vishu Kashyap c Mohsin b Shikhar 5 (8b, 1x4), Jagjit Singh b Shreyas 4 (5b, 1x4), Nishunk Birla (not out) 1. Extras (B-8, LB-10) 18. **TOTAL (all out, 33.5 overs) 140.**
Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Azad), 2-65 (Bhambri), 3-71 (Vohra), 4-75 (Kaushik), 5-95 (Thakur), 6-120 (Puri), 7-125 (Taranpreet), 8-130 (Bawa), 9-134 (Jagjit).
Bowling: Vidwath Kaverappa 4-2-2-1, Vidyadhar Patil 3-1-10-0, Shreyas Gopal 13-1-45-3, Shikhar Shetty 12.5-2-61-5, Mohsin Khan 1-0-4-0.
Result: Karnataka won by an innings and 185 runs.
Points: Karnataka 7, Chandigarh 0.
PoM: R Smaran.
Karnataka's next match: Vs Madhya Pradesh (Bengaluru, Jan 22-26).
Other Group B brief scores: At New Chandigarh: Maharashtra: 350 bt Punjab (O/n: 125/4): 151 all out in 58.4 overs (Harnoor Singh 26, Anmol Malhotra 35, Salil Arora 25; Rajneesh Gurbani 4-39, Rajvardhan Hangargekar 5-44) & (f/o) 107 all out in 40.5 overs (Ramakrishna Ghosh 2-17, Vicky Ostwal 6-26) by an innings and 92 runs. **Points:** Maharashtra 7, Punjab 0.
At Saurashtra: Saurashtra: 585/7 decl vs Goa (125/2): 358 all out in 106.2 overs (Abhinav Tejrana 118, Lalit Yadav 59, Deepraj Gaonkar 33, Arjun Tendulkar 26, Rajashekhar Harikant 69; Yuvrajsinh Dodiya 6-98; Parth Bhut 2-71) & (f/o) 77/2 in 16.3 overs (Manthan Khutkar 34 n.o., Abhinav Tejrana 34).
At Indore: Kerala: 281 & 226/3 in 64 overs (Abhishek Nair 30, Sachin Baby 85 n.o., Baba Aparajith 89 n.o.) vs Madhya Pradesh (O/n: 155/6) 192 all out in 77.1 overs (Saransh Jain 67, Aryan Pandey 36; MD Nidheesh 3-55, Eden Apple Tom 4-55).

Weightlifting is in the genes of Sanika

Daughter of former internationals Sudhir & Chandrashori, the 10-year-old from Bhadravathi is making heads turn

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Girls lifting weights, even in modern times, is largely considered a taboo. 'It will make a girl look muscular like a man', 'it isn't a feminine activity to do', 'it messes with the monthly menstrual cycle'.. are some the most common fears and misconceptions.



For Sudhir Kumar's family, though, lifting weights is about banishing such apprehensions while making it an identity they gleefully flaunt.

The Bhadravathi man in Shivamogga district is a former international weightlifter himself who married colleague Chandrashori of Manipur. With both parents as lifters, it was but natural to introduce the sport to their two children Sanketh and Sanika. And the first glimpses of future hopefuls took little time to come to notice, especially the daughter.

At the first edition of the Mini Karnataka Games in 2022, a seven-year-old competing with girls double her age and size made heads turn. Taking her stance before clearing 17 kgs in snatch and 21 kgs in clean & jerk for a total of 38 kgs gave Sanika a bronze in the girls' under 40 kg category which created a flutter in the lifting community.

"We have a gym attached to our house here and Sanika spent more time at the weights hall than inside the house ever since she was a toddler," reminisced father and coach Sudhir, who has won three consecutive Commonwealth Games bronze medals -- 2002 Manchester, 2006 Melbourne and 2010 New Delhi -- in the men's 69 kg section.

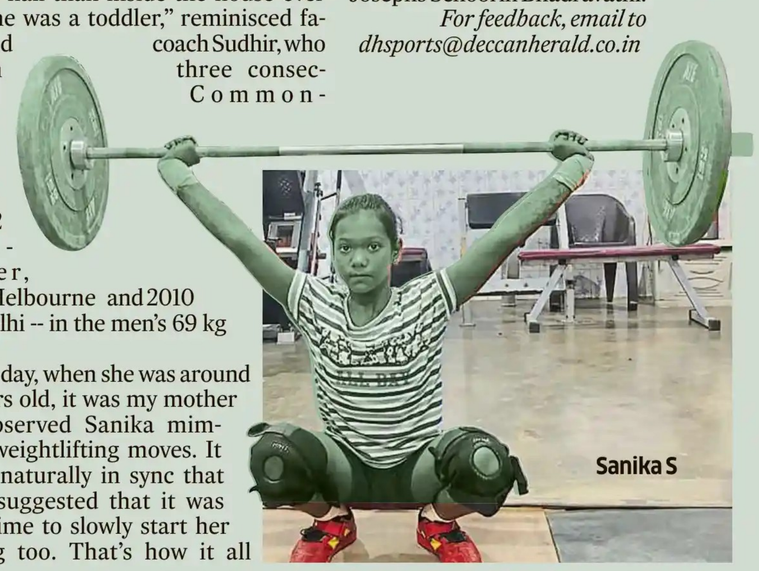
"One day, when she was around 5-6 years old, it was my mother who observed Sanika mimicking weightlifting moves. It was so naturally in sync that *amma* suggested that it was about time to slowly start her training too. That's how it all began," coach Sudhir explained.

A third-place finish in her maiden tournament was the beginning of many accolades that awaited the youngster. The now 10-year-old has since won a bronze (2022) and two gold medals (2023, 2024) at the junior State weightlifting meets. Sanika, who finished on the podium while competing in the under-17 40 kg category, once again turned out to be the star attraction at the 2023 Dasara Games despite missing a medal by a whisker. But the fact that her fourth place came in the seniors section in Mysuru further attests her potential in weightlifting. With few women from Karnataka known for the sport, Sanika is now a ray of hope.

"Yes, school and then practice," shared Sanika, who won gold again with lifts of 51 kgs (snatch) and 58 kgs (clean & jerk) for a total of 109 kgs at the fourth Mini Karnataka Games a few weeks ago in Bengaluru. However, she will not be allowed to compete in the state junior events for a while due to the Indian Weightlifting Federation rule that requires participants to be 13 years or older.

"People have some wrong notions about girls doing weightlifting. Like, it affects us from getting taller. But its not true. It makes me strong, bold and makes me face everything with courage. So girls should definitely lift," said the fifth grade student of St Josephs School in Bhadravathi.

For feedback, email to dhsports@deccanherald.co.in



Sanika S

Ashwa Simran wins feature

DELHI RESULTS

Ashwa Simran, from the stables of S Nawab and ridden by Mohd Talib, won the upper division of the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Cup, the feature event of the races on Tuesday.
1. Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Cup (Div II) - 1000M: Cool Water (Arjun) 1; Big Bang (Shivam) 2; Master Cowboy (Faizan Khan) 3; Tripurari (Rakesh) 4; NR: Time To Win & Alexander. Wb: 2-3/4, 2, 2-1/2L. T: 1:00.27. TB: SH Abbas. Fav: Big Bang.
2. Red Rose Lover Plate (Div II) -1000M: Euphoria (Yash Saini) 1; My Darling Bobby (Vishal) 2; Juggad (Lave Kumar) 3; The Mentalist (Vishal Shivhare) 4; Wb: 1/2, Shd, 1-1/4L. T: 1:01.38. TB: Rajinder. Fav: My Darling Bobby.
3. Red Rose Lover Plate (Div I) - 1000M: Miss Marmalade (Sunil Kumar Varma) Narendra Kumar 1; Cashier (Arjun) 2; Super Speed (Vishal Shivhare) 3; Alex (Muzammil Hashmi) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, Shd, 1/2L. 1:01.29. TB: S.M.Abbas. Fav: Gamati.
4. Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Cup (Div I) - 1000M: Ashwa Simran (Mohd Talib) 1; She's A Beauty (Vishal) 2; Bee Jay (RN Manjhi) 3; Galway Bay (Deeoaj Kumar) 4; Wb: 3-1/2, Nk, 5-1/4L. T: 0:59.03. TB: S Nawab. Fav: Ashwa Simran.
5. Bal Diwas Plate - 1600M: Lodge Keeper (Rakesh) 1; Rinku Romeo (Arjun) 2; Mr Christopher (Shivam) 3; Ashwa Sirohi (Dhanu Deora) 4; NR: Ronaldo. Wb: 4, Nk, 5L. T: 1:38.45. TB: Magan Singh. Fav: Lodge Keeper.
6. First Primie Minister Plate - 1200M: Master Multitude (Narendra Kumar) 1; Jaat Hero (Vishal) 2; Burning Desire (Dhanu Deora) 3; Little More (Lave Kumar) 4; Wb: 2-1/2, 1-3/4, 2-1/2L . T: 1:13.86. TB: SM Abbas. Fav: Master Multitude.
Bengaluru dividends
I race: Rs 15w; 10, 10p; Fc: Rs 31; Q: Rs 12; Shp: Rs 16; Thp: Rs 45; Tri: Rs 77 & 61; Ex: Rs 171 & 39. **II race:** Rs 41w; 14, 11, 17p; Fc: Rs 74; Q: Rs 44; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 49; Tri: Rs 260 & 275; Ex: Rs 730 & 304. **III race:** Rs 31w; 24, 25, 22p; Fc: Rs 320; Q: Rs 255; Shp: Rs 85; Thp: Rs 43; Tri: Rs 2,922 & 1,669; Ex: Rs 31,569 (c/o). **IV race:** Rs 13w; 10, 15, 11p; Fc: Rs 61; Q: Rs 45; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 34; Tri: Rs 37 & 16: Ex: Rs 752 & 446. **V race:** Rs 29w; 13, 11, 14p; Fc: Rs 113; Q: Rs 46; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 188 & 119; . Ex: Rs 208 & 107. **VI race:** Rs 19w; 11, 12, 18p; Fc: Rs 40; Q: Rs 24; Shp: Rs 35; Thp: Rs 38; Tri: Rs 176 & 109; Ex: Rs 1,744 & 747.
Jackpot: Rs 1,084 (140). **Runner-up:** Rs 231 (282). **I treble:** Rs 76 (127).

NATASHA SAGAR (1989-2025)

Athlete who excelled on track and beyond

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Natasha Sagar **(in pic)**, once a well-known junior athlete who was a sure-shot medallist for Karnataka at most junior competitions in India, passed away here on Tuesday.

According to sources, the 36-year-old Natasha, daughter of Dr Premachandra Sagar -- the vice chancellor of Dayanand Sagar Group of Institutions and Sagar Hospitals, is said to have expired due to health-related issues.

Known as a multi-discipline athlete throughout her young career, Natasha made her first big impression when she clinched a gold in the girls' under-14 triathlon event at the junior nationals held in Shivamogga in 2003. The success at such a big stage at home catapulted Natasha as one of the most promising track and field athletes who made juggling between events look easy.

"She was punctual, obedient and a very hardworking girl," remembered VR Beedu, the Dronacharnaya Awardee who coached Natasha during her most successful athletic years between 2003 and 2007.

"Her mother first wanted to make her an 800m runner. But we discussed and I thought she had the talent to be groomed as a good jumper. And she proved me right. More than everything she was a nice girl and got along with everybody. The news of her demise at such a young age is difficult for me to believe," said Beedu, who trains at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here.

From long jump, high jump, triple jump to 100m hurdles and pentathlon, the Baldwin Girls High School student had made a habit of finishing on the podium. Following a silver in heptathlon at the 2006 junior Federation Cup in Chennai, Natasha slowly big adieu to sports as a teen but went on to excel in studies and entrepreneurial ventures.

Pak's Iqbal shocks Advani in quarterfinals

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three-time IBSF World champion Pankaj Advani was ousted in the quarterfinals of the World Cup of snooker by Pakistan's Asjad Iqbal in Muscat on Tuesday.

Iqbal, who defeated another Indian, Hussain Khan, 3-0 in the round of 32, hardly put a foot wrong in the best-of-seven-frame clash. A demon potter, the challenger came up with a barrage of breaks in his lopsided victory.

He rifled in an 81 break in the opening frame and followed that up with a 45 in the next for a quick 2-0 lead. Advani, who defeated fellow Indian Brijesh Damani in the pre-quarters, failed to come up with the goods on the day. Iqbal then took the third frame with runs of 68 and 49, and then rode his luck to win the fourth and storm into the semifinals.

Earlier, Aditya Mehta, who has been playing some of his best snooker in recent times, went down 2-4 against Hong Kong China's Chang Yu Kiu in the pre-quarterfinals.

Results (Indians unless mentioned): Quarterfinals: Asjad Iqbal (Pak) bt Pankaj Advani 4-0 (100 (81) -0, 92 (45) -37, 117 (68, 49) -16, 83-21).

Germany, Netherlands seal WC tickets in style

PARIS, AFP

Germany and Netherlands went on goal sprees as they wrapped up World Cup qualification with resounding wins in their last European group matches on Monday.

"Every player played well today and worked like a dog," Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann told German broadcaster ZDF.

Both European giants needed only to draw to be sure of reaching the global footballing showpiece in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Instead, both went on the attack.

Germany took early control as they beat Slovakia 6-0 in Leipzig. The Netherlands took longer to pull away before overcoming Lithuania 4-0 in Amsterdam.

Slovakia finished second in Group A. Poland, who survived a scare to win 3-2 in Malta, ended up second to the Dutch in Group G. Second spot secures a place in the 16-team European play-offs in March.

Northern Ireland's 1-0 win over Luxembourg in Belfast could not lift them out of third in Group A but they will make the play-offs because of their Nations League performance.

Germany's Assan Ouedraogo celebrates after scoring against Slovakia during their World Cup qualifying game in Leipzig on Monday night. AFP

In Group L, Croatia, already assured of first place, scored twice in the last 18 minutes to cone from behind and win 3-2 away to Montenegro. The Czech Republic, in second, slaughtered visiting Gibraltar 6-0.

In Leipzig, four times winners Germany started the night level on points with opponents Slovakia atop Group A but with an edge in goal difference. Slovakia, who beat Germany earlier in qualifying, created some threatening moments but could not take them.

Nick Woltemade headed the Germans into an 18th minute lead. Once Serge Gnabry added a second 11 minutes later, the hosts were in total control. Leroy Sane scored twice before half time and substitutes Ridle Baku and Assan Ouedraogo struck in the second half.
Results: Group A: Germany: 6 (Woltemade 18th, Gnabry 29th, Sane 36th, 41st, Baku 67th, Ouedraogo 79th) bt Slovakia: 0; Northern Ireland: 1 (Donley 44th) bt Luxembourg: 0.
Group G: Malta: 2 (Cardona 36th, Teuma 68th) lt to Poland: 3 (Lewandowski 32nd, Wszolek 59th, Zielinski 85th); Netherlands: 4 (Reijnders 16th, Gakpo 58th, Simons 60th, Malen 62nd).
Group L: Montenegro: 2 (Osmajic 3rd, Krstovic 17th) lt to Croatia: 3 (Perisic 37th, Jakic 72nd, Vlasic 87th); Czech Republic: 6 (Doudera 5th, Chory 18th, Coufal 32nd, Karabec 39th, Soucek 44th, Hranac 51st) bt Gibraltar: 0.

Rishi 'tricks in BFC win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ningthou Khongjam Rishi Singh scored a hat-trick, including two stoppage-time goals, in Bengaluru FC's 4-1 victory over struggling HAL FC during the latest round of matches of the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Tuesday.

Rishi opened the scoring in the 26th minute before HAL's Md Arshad (45+3rd) restored parity late in the first half. HAL battled early on after the break but Chaphamayum Rohen Singh's 67th-minute goal gave the lead back to Bengaluru FC.
Results: Bengaluru FC: 4 (Rishi Singh 26th, 90+2nd, 90+6th; Rohen Singh 67th) bt HAL FC: 1 (Arshad 45+3rd); Parikrma FC: 3 (Haokip 16th, Sharan S 31st, Kipgen 85th) bt Rebels FC: 1 (Lingu 41st); Bangalore Dream United FC: 2 (Lalrinfela 23rd, Yogesh M 56th) bt Roots FC: 1 (Amarjith Singh 50th).

Bengaluru FC goalkeeper Aheibam Suraj Singh (right) blocks a shot by HAL's Siddharth Singh Rathore. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Bangla feast on India now

DHAKA, PTI: Already out of contention for a spot in the Asian Cup, India suffered another embarrassing defeat, losing 0-1 to Bangladesh in their penultimate Group C match of qualifying round here on Tuesday.

Sheikh Morsalin scored the all-important goal for Bangladesh in the 11th minute to the wild cheer of the capacity crowd at the National Stadium.

Preeti upsets three-time World Champ to enter final

GREATER NOIDA, AGENCIES

Preeti Pawar (54kg) delivered one of the biggest upsets of the World Boxing Cup Finals 2025, defeating Tokyo Olympics medalist and three-time World Champion Huang Hsiao-Wen of Chinese Taipei to advance to the gold medal bout in Greater Noida on Tuesday.

Preeti led the way as eight Indians, including Arundhati Choudhary, Minakshi Hooda, Abhinash Jamwal, Ankush Phangal, Nupur Sheoran, Narender Berwal, and Parveen, entered the finals at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex.

Narender (left) defeated Daniyal Saparbay of Kazakhstan to reach the gold medal round of 90+kg category at the World Boxing Cup Finals in Greater Noida on Tuesday.

Preeti set the tone from the opening seconds, edging the first round with clean counter-punches before asserting clear dominance in the second. The 22-year-old pugilist refused to let the seasoned Huang build rhythm, cutting off angles and denying the former world champion any momentum. A flowing one-two combination late in the third affirmed her control and sealed a victory that will stand as a signature moment in her rising career.

Arundhati delivered one of the most commanding performances of the tournament, stopping Germany's Leonie Muller, a medallist at all three stages of the World Boxing Cup, as the referee stopped the contest. World Champion Minakshi (48kg) continued her exceptional form with a near-perfect 5:0 win over Korea's Bak Cho-rong.

Satwik-Chirag make solid start

SYDNEY, PTI: Star Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the men's doubles second round with a tough straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Chang Ko-Chi and Po Li-Wei at the Australian Open Super 500 tournament here on Tuesday.

The world No. 3 Indian pair, who reached back-to-back finals at the Hong Kong Super 500 and China Masters Super 750, prevailed 25-23, 21-16 in a fighting 48-minute opening-round clash against Ko-Chi and Po Li-Wei.

In women's doubles, however, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand suffered a 10-21, 14-21 defeat to Indonesia's F Kusuma and M Puspitasari in their opening match.

Top seeds Satwik and Chirag fell 2-6 behind early in the opening game, with the Taiwanese pair maintaining a slender lead until 16-14. The Indians turned the tables to go up 19-17, but the game went down to the wire thereafter.

A sharp net shot after a fierce rally gave the Indians a game point, which the Taiwanese saved with a brutal smash. Chirag then missed a chance to give Ko-Chi and Li-Wei another game point, only for them to find the net.

True Punch for feature

MYSURU SELECTIONS

True Punch, from the stables of Rajendra Singh and ridden by SG Prasad, is fancied to win the Rajyotsava Trophy, the feature event run over a distance of seven furlongs on Wednesday. The first race starts at 2 pm.
1. Nanjangud Plate - 1200M: Gentleman's Word 1, Eye The Mind 2, Pearl Of Mysore 3.
2. Big Deal Plate - 1400M: Absolute Conquerer 1, Polar Wind 2, Golden Bird 3.
3. Fantasy Dream Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Selma 1, Noble Pursuit 2, Balahaka 3.
4. SA Attaollahi Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Klimt 1, Moana 2, Falcon Fury 3.
5. Rajyotsava Trophy - 1400M: True Punch 1, Kanya Rashi 2, D Gold Star 3.
6. Fantasy Dream Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Knotty In Blue 1, Seiko Katsu 2, Authentic Bell 3.
7. BR Hills Plate - 1400M: Magic Circle 1, Reign Of Terror 2, Sir Calculus 3.
Day's best: Magic Cirlce. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. **I treble:** 2, 3, 4. **II treble:** 5, 6, 7.

IN BRIEF

Kaveri SC post easy win

▸ As many as six players added their names to the scorers list to power Kaveri Sports Club to a 6-1 win over Yes for Hockey GS at the KSHA C Division Hockey League Championship on Tuesday, reports DHNS.
Results: Kaveri SC: 6 (Kuttappa 1st, Chengappa 10th, Belliappa 12th, Nani 39th, Rithesh 42nd, Sannu Kariappa 45th) bt Yes for Hockey GS: 1 (Gagan 49th).

Urs, Kochhar in lead at IGPL

▸ Pranavi Urs produced a stunning six-under 62 to share the lead with her male counterpart Karandeep Kochhar after the opening day of the IGPL Invitational Mumbai, becoming the first woman player to hold a share of the lead at any stage on the Tour, reports PTI from Mumbai.

Pranavi notched up eight birdies against two bogeys to join Kochhar at the top. Kochhar, who finished a few minutes earlier, signed off in style with an eagle-par-eagle finish for his own 62.

Piastri wins Aus honour

▸ Nine-time Grand Prix winner Oscar Piastri has won Australian sport's highest honour, the Don Award, with the Formula One star calling it a "massive privilege", reports AFP from Melbourne.

Azam fined for breach

▸ Pakistan batting star Babar Azam was fined 10 per cent of his match fee and handed a demerit point for hitting the stumps with his bat after being dismissed in the third ODI against Sri Lanka in Rawalpindi, reports PTI from Dubai.

The 31-year-old breached Article 2.2 of the ICC Code of Conduct, which relates to "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during an International Match."

Saina, Gade for LVLT India

▸ Indian badminton great Saina Nehwal and Danish legend Peter Gade will headline The Legends' Vision – Legacy Tour India, reports DHNS.

The Legacy Tour will be held in New Delhi on November 23–24.

K'taka near win as Akshath stars

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Akshath Prabhakar took a five-for against Uttarakhand to push the hosts close to a thumping victory on Day 3 of their BCCI-Cooch Behar Trophy game at Alur grounds here on Tuesday.

His 5/20 spell bundled out Uttarakhand for 191 runs in the second innings, mounting a target of 159 runs for Karnataka, who ended the day on 44/1 in 7 overs.

Brief scores: Uttarakhand: 202 all out & (O/n: 0/0): 191 all out in 77.1 overs (Bhavya 30, Rakshit Dalakoti 88, Ayush Deswal 30, Eesa Puthige 2-35, Akshath Prabhakar 5-20) vs Karnataka: 235 all out & 44/1 in 7 overs.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

2nd ODI: New Zealand vs West Indies **(6:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**.

Asia Cup Rising Stars: Afghanistan vs Hong Kong **(3 pm)**, Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh **(8 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 1**.

Ranji Trophy: Madhya Pradesh vs Kerala, Tamil Nadu vs Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh vs Chhattisgarh **(Day 4, 9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network** & **JioHotstar**.

BOXING

World Boxing Cup Finals: Day 4 **(1 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**.

CRICKET TEST SERIES

An Indian touch in Harmer resurrection

South African scripts a career turnaround after work with Umesh Patwal

South Africa's Simon Harmer has shown in the Pakistan series as well in the opening Test in Kolkata that he can be a potent partner to main spinner Keshav Maharaj. AFP

MADHU JAWALI
KOLKATA, DHNS

A decade ago, Simon Harmer arrived in India as part of South Africa's spin contingent for the Proteas' four-Test tour in 2015. He missed the opening Test in Bengaluru and the final one in Delhi, but featured in the matches in Mohali and Nagpur, where India prepared rank turners. The two pitches were so underprepared that even the Indian batters struggled, their highest total across four innings being only 215.

India won both encounters to secure the series after the drawn first Test, yet the outcome could easily have tilted in South Africa's favour had they possessed more experienced spinners. Harmer, then 26 and only two Tests into his career, managed to claim 10 wickets in India's four innings, including two four-wicket hauls, but his efforts were not influential enough in such low-scoring contests.

It took Harmer a remarkable seven years to earn another Test cap after being dropped following the Nagpur debacle. With his Test career seemingly finished, he moved to the United Kingdom in 2017 on a Kolpak deal. Before relocating to England, however, Harmer travelled to India in 2016 to train with Umesh Patwal in Mumbai. Patwal, now the coach of Assam's Under-23 side, worked with him for a few days that would ultimately alter the trajectory of Harmer's career.

"When I got dropped from the national side in 2015 was when I realised that I wasn't good enough," Harmer recalled. "I came back to India in 2016 to work with Patwal in Mumbai and I discovered a lot about spin bowling that I didn't know. That was probably the point of my career that gave me the ammunition to get better and develop and become a decent spinner."

Patwal introduced Harmer to aspects of spin bowling he had never encountered and taught him techniques that were entirely new to him. In essence, Harmer had to unlearn much of what he had previously absorbed and develop fresh skills. His transformation yielded considerable success in county cricket over the following five to six years, until Britain's exit from the European Union brought an end to Kolpak status and made him eligible to represent South Africa once more. He returned to the Test side in March 2022, yet between that comeback and the recent tour of Pakistan, he played only five Tests, going without a match from January 2023 to October 2025 as Keshav Maharaj established himself as South Africa's premier spinner.

A timely appeal to current South African coach Shukri Conrad would open another chapter in his career. "When Simon called me up a few months ago and he said he's desperate to play for South Africa again, I was more desperate to have him back," Conrad remarked after the Proteas' victory in the first Test.

Together with Senuran Muthusamy and Maharaj, both of whom appear to possess a natural affinity for spin bowling owing to their Indian heritage, Harmer has helped form a spin trio that has rejuvenated South Africa's fortunes on the subcontinent.

After drawing the series in Pakistan, South Africa have now taken an unassailable lead against India, with Harmer serving as the principal architect of their last two victories in Rawalpindi, where he took 8 for 125, and in Kolkata, where he produced figures of 8 for 51. Notably, 21 of his 60 Test wickets have come in the past three matches alone.

"I'm a lot more confident in my ability, I don't have as many doubts as I did back then and I was fighting for a place in the team," Harmer said when asked about his learnings from his previous tour of India. "I was quite new to Test cricket. Ravi Ashwin was bowling like a jet and it was the expectation that I needed to do the same, so I was dealing with that and putting myself under even more pressure.

"Now I feel like I have the skill set to compete. Whether or not it goes my way is sometimes the luck of the draw, but as long as I can look back and say that I put a good amount of balls in the right area, then I can be happy with that."

The end of Kolpak may have revived Harmer's international career, yet sustaining that desire despite advancing age, competition from younger spinners and limited opportunities at home for a spinner due to conditions, is a tribute to his passion.

India go old-school in practice session

MADHU JAWALI
KOLKATA, DHNS

After a chastening home defeat in Kolkata, where the Indian batters became an easy meal for visiting spinners, some of them went old school in order to prepare themselves for a potentially similar challenge in the second Test in Guwahati.

Hosting its maiden Test, the pitch at the Barsapara stadium is an unknown entity for both teams. And while it remains to be seen if it will play as Eden Gardens' surface did, the Indians faced an assortment of spinners and pacers on various pitches during an optional practice session here on Tuesday, which was supposed to be the fifth day of the opening Test.

Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel, Washington Sundar from the first Test and those from the bench -- Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Akash Deep -- took part in a nearly three-hour session under the watch of Head Coach Gautam Gambhir, bowling coach Morne Morkel and assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate besides other support staff.

Sudharshan and Jurel, especially, stood out during their 'nets' as the two batted with only the left pad on. This is an old-school method wherein your movements aren't restricted but the element of risk to the exposed leg keeps you bring your pad more into play rather pad-off deliveries that can increase chances of lbws as seen in the first Test where the turn was inconsistent.

Sudharsan has emerged as one of the strong contenders to replace Shubman Gill, whose participation in the second Test remains highly doubtful. The southpaw appeared to struggle against the pacers during his long stint with Gambhir and batting coach Sitanshu Kotak, regularly passing on their advice.

Sai Sudharsan during a training session in Kolkata on Tuesday. PTI

Nitish joins team

All-rounder Nitish Reddy has joined the team after he was released from the India A squad that's involved in a one-day series against South Africa A with the third and final match scheduled on Wednesday.

Nitish had been released from the Test squad, ahead of the opening match here and rejoins following uncertainty over Gill. It remains to be seen whether Gill travels to Guwahati with the team or flies to Bengaluru to check-in at Centre of Excellence for further treatment of his stiff neck.

Having lost the skipper early in their first innings in the first Test, and playing with a batter less, India will not risk playing Gill unless he is 100 per cent fit.

Erigaisi falters to settle for a draw

MANISHA MOHITE

Arjun Erigaisi missed a few promising continuations against Wei Yi of China in the second game of the quarterfinals of the FIDE World Cup 2025 in Goa. The game ultimately petered into a draw and 22-year-old Erigaisi will have to raise his game under faster time controls in the tie-break on Wednesday to advance to the semifinals.

Erigaisi is India's only hope remaining in the tournament since the other 23 Indians in fray have been eliminated.

The encounters between Martinez Alcantara (Mexico) versus Javokhir Sindarov and Andrey Esipenko versus Sam Shankland also ended in a draw without much fanfare. All these players will feature in the tie-breaks to decide who advances to the semifinal

Alexander Donchenko of Germany, after losing the first game on Monday to Nodirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan, needed to win on demand for survival on Tuesday. To give credit to the German, he toiled for long to try and convert an equal-looking position but had to settle for a draw after 57. Nodirbek is the first player to advance to the semifinals of this eight-round knockout event.

Uzbekistan's Nordibek Yakuboev makes a move during his quarterfinal win over Alexander Donchenko of Germany on Tuesday. FIDE

Quite clearly, pressure is taking a toll on the players as most of them have adopted safety first at all cost attitude, the reluctance for better-looking but risky possibilities baffling a few but not surprising most. Interestingly, all these eight players are trying to stake their claim on the three Candidates spots on offer here and make their debut in the eight-player Candidates tournament to decide the challenger for World Champion D Gukesh.

In a Queen's Gambit Declined game, Arjun Wielding Whites uncorked a new knight move on the 7th turn, deviating from theory quite early on. On the 19th turn, long think by Erigaisi indicated that he was not on home turf but pondering long on three moves. Erigaisi managed to resolve his issues on board to gain advantage.

Erigaisi either missed or decided against a promising continuation on the 24th turn and the game against Wei appeared to head towards a deadlock. Wei's Queen infiltrated into Erigaisi's territory but the Indian had things under control and peace was signed on the 32nd turn.

Round 6 Game 2 results: Martinez Alcantara (Mex) drew with Javokhir Sindarov (UZB); 1-1; Arjun Erigaisi (Ind) drew with Wei Yi (CHN) 1-1; Andrey Esipenko drew with Sam Shankland (USA) 1-1; Alexander Donchenko (Ger) drew with Nodirbek Yakubboev (UZB) 0.5-1.5.

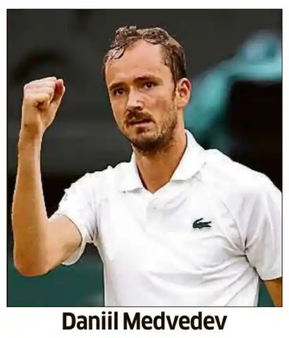
Medvedev, Rybakina to play in Bengaluru at SMKTS

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tennis fans in the city are in for a bonanza of a treat as the World Tennis League (WTL) is all set to make its India debut next month here in Bengaluru.

This year's edition -- at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium from December 17-20 -- will feature some of the sports' current best, including Daniil Medvedev, Nick Kyrgios, Elena Rybakina, Paula Badosa, Gael Monfils, Arthur Fils, Magda Linette and Marta Kostyuk.

With tennis on the rise in the country, the four-day event will also have India's standout performers led by the recently retired Rohan Bopanna, along with Sumit Nagal, Yuki Bhambri, Ankita Raina, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, Sahaja Yamalapalli, Maaya Revathi and Dhakshineswar Suresh to the mix.

With its unique team format and high-level competition, the World Tennis League has established itself as a prominent event in the tennis calendar and continues to attract attention from both players and fans worldwide.



Daniil Medvedev

Talking about her first appearance in India, world No. 5 Rybakina said: "I've heard so much about the tennis culture in India, and I'm thrilled to make my debut here with WTL. The league has an exciting format, and I'm ready to enjoy every moment on the court with my team."

India A qualify for semifinals

DOHA, PTI: Harsh Dubey made a half-century as India A outplayed Oman by six wickets to qualify for the semifinals of the Rising Stars Asia Cup here on Tuesday.

An all-round bowling performance allowed India A to limit Oman to 135/7 India chased down the target in 17.5 overs.

Brief scores: Oman 135/7 in 20 overs (Hammad Mirza 32, Wasim Ali 54 n.o.; Gurjanpreet Singh 2-37, Suyash Sharma 2-12) lt to India A 138/4 in 17.5 overs (Naman Dhir 30, Harsh Dubey 53 not out).

Umadevi, Keerthana pocket titles

BENGALURU, DHNS: Umadevi Nagaraj and Keerthana Pandian clinched the Karnataka State Ranking senior women's billiards and snooker titles respectively on Tuesday.

In the billiards final rounds, Umadevi outplayed Keerthana and Roopa KS 2-0 each, posting convincing frame wins of 75-50, 75-49 and 75-00, 75-39 to secure the top podium spot.

In the snooker final, Keerthana turned the tables on Umadevi with a clinical 3-0 win, sealing the match with frame scores of 48-24, 66-16 and 61-22.

Results: Final: Billiards: Umadevi Nagaraj bt Keerthana Pandian 2 -0, Keerthana Pandian beat Roopa KS 2- 0; Umadevi Nagaraj beat Roopa KS 2-0.
Snooker: Keerthana Pandian bt Umadevi Nagaraj 3-0

Keerthana Pandian (left) and Umadevi Nagaraj.

Umpire Raghu wins accolade he was craving for

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

After blowing the whistle tirelessly for over two decades and earning plaudits from players and officials alike for his friendly yet commanding officiating, Karnataka's Raghu Prasad received the one award he had been craving for all his life after being adjudged the FIH Umpire of the Year 2025.

"Today is one of the most special moments of my career. Receiving the FIH Umpire of the Year 2025 award is a true honour. When I look back at the long hours, sacrifices and challenges, this recognition feels deeply rewarding," said a delighted Raghu.

The affable Raghu, one of the foremost umpires in the world with an exceptional resume that includes three Olympic Games, four senior World Cups, two Asian Games and one Commonwealth Games, however, was forced to swallow the good news with a bit of bitterness. The 47-year-old Bengalurean will call time on his umpiring career at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Ipoh, Malaysia, from November 23-30.

"I'm still fit as any youngster and I could go on and on, but FIH rules state that an umpire can officiate until he's 47 years old. I turned 47 in January, so this year was going to be my last. I will be signing off at Azlan Shah. It's not going to be easy because umpiring has been my life for three decades. But all good things come to an end, so does this journey. But I will remain connected to hockey until I go to the grave!," said Raghu.

Karnataka's Raghu Prasad was adjudged the FIH Umpire of the Year 2025 on Tuesday.

A LOUD WHISTLE

- Commonwealth Games (2014)
- Asian Games (2018, 2022)
- Senior World Cups (2010, 2014, 2018 and 2023)
- Olympic Games (2012, 2020 and 2024)

Since his youth, Raghu was always passionate about hockey. Having figured he can't cut it as a player, he focussed on umpiring, learning the ropes from the Karnataka State Hockey Association officials. In 2001, he started officiating in inter-school and inter-collegiate tournaments before exponentially rising up the ladder.

Within two years, he graduated to the international stage with the Four Nations Tournament in Australia in 2003 marking his debut at the world stage. From there on, Raghu, who admires fellow umpires Henrik Ehlers from Denmark and John Wright of South Africa, just kept thrusting forward, not looking back once. His match count now stands at 198 and he's certain to hit the double ton in Malaysia, a feat very few can boast about.

Raghu, ever sporting a smile on his face, had a whole lot of people to thank for being part of a memorable journey. "I owe a great deal to Hockey India for giving me the platform to grow. To my colleague officials and fellow umpires around the world, thank you for the trust and the standards we uphold together. I must also acknowledge KSHA, the foundation of my umpiring journey, and Hockey Karnataka for their continued support. And most importantly my family, who have stood like a rock beside me. Umpiring is not a very lucrative career option but not once did they deter me from blowing the whistle."

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com